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FROM BELIEF TO COMMITMENT:

The Activities and Finances of Religious Congregations in the United States

Findings from A National Survey

INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a nonprofit coalition of 660 corporate, foundation, and voluntary organization members with national interest and impact in philanthropy and voluntary action. The organization's mission is to create a national forum capable of encouraging the giving, volunteering and not-for-profit initiative that help all of us to better serve people, communities and causes.

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Findings from
A National Survey

Analyzed by:
Virginia A. Hodgkinson, Ph.D.
Murray S. Weitzman, Ph.D.
Arthur D. Kirsch, Ph.D.

Survey Conducted by:
The Gallup Organization
for
INDEPENDENT SECTOR

INDEPENDENT
SECTOR
1828 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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FOREWORD

Each time we issue a report illustrating the generous giving of Americans, including those of low and moderate income, many people downplay the significance because, as they point out, close to half of the money goes to religious institutions and somehow that isn't supposed to count. That point of view is reinforced by the otherwise welcome new wave of researchers studying the independent sector who unfortunately leave out religious congregations when measuring the sector's size and impact as though such organizations don't really belong in analyses of what this sector is and does.

We argue that a very large part of the nonprofit sector's service to society is performed by religious institutions and that any comprehensive look at the sector has to include these organizations. This study, "From Belief to Commitment" makes clear how very large their community services are, dwarfing all funds contributed to and by other voluntary organizations for local human services. The report documents that religious congregations are the primary voluntary service providers for neighborhoods. It is my experience that the poorer the community, the larger that role and impact. Henceforth, researchers, funders, and volunteers intent on identifying who makes the greatest difference at the local level will have to acknowledge the pervasive network of America's religious bodies.

Beyond the direct service role, as large as it is, these institutions have been and continue to be the places where the moral issues are raised and pursued. Toqueville saw this country's network of voluntary organizations not so much as service providers but as "the moral associations" where such values as equality and service to others are taught and where the nation's crusades take root.

I am constantly aware how much of the country's patterns of community service and advocacy relate to the earliest activities of churches and to the initial and continuing protections of freedom of religion. Despite how obvious this is, people tend to set aside this whole one half of our sector as though it didn't really belong, relating largely to salvation. If we look at what the conscience, the meeting ground, and the organized neighborliness represented by religious congregations mean to the kind of society we are, religion takes on a different and a larger significance.

Virginia Hodgkinson and her associates, Murray Weitzman and Arthur Kirsch, have done a magnificent service in providing this tangible evidence of the community outreach of America's religious congregations. From the start of INDEPENDENT SECTOR, we have said that if we want to preserve and strengthen our patterns of participation and generosity, it is important to understand and nurture all of the roots that give rise to such pluralism. This report is a giant step in that essential direction.

Brian O'Connell
President
INDEPENDENT SECTOR

PREFACE

An ambitious project such as this one takes a dream; it also takes people who are willing to invest resources in the project to make that dream a reality and people who work enthusiastically to implement the project. When after two years of deliberation, the members of the INDEPENDENT SECTOR Research Committee approved its first program in September 1985 to stimulate research on and about the independent sector, part of this plan included a small project to explore ways to investigate the connection and contribution of religious institutions to the independent sector. This examination had two purposes:to explore the influence of these institutions on the services provided to our communities, the nation, and other countries, and to discover the ways that religious values motivate people to give and volunteer both to the religious institutions and to other organizations.

After that fall meeting of the INDEPENDENT SECTOR Research Committee, Robert W. Lynn, vice president for religion at the Lilly Endowment asked me how I would approach this task. I replied that I would like to see the first truly national survey conducted to provide baseline information about the activities and finances of religious institutions in the United States. I believed that such a survey, along with the work he was doing at the Lilly Endowment to attract scholars to take an interest in the whole area of religion and philanthropy, might help attract the attention of scholars and practitioners in religious organizations to investigate these important institutions and their influence on our society. He asked me to send him a proposal, and promised that if the Lilly Endowment, Inc., accepted it, but could not provide all the funds, he thought he knew of another donor who might be interested in this project. Martin Paul Trimble, program officer at the Pew Charitable Trusts, who has encouraged and supported our efforts over the past two-and-a-half years was the person he identified.

From October 1985 until June 1986, a series of meetings were held with representatives of major religious organizations to explore the feasibility of such a survey. Another series of interviews were held with scholars within denominational organizations and at colleges and universities to explore how such a survey ought to be conducted. The results of these meetings were both promising and challenging. There seemed to be an interest in the religious community for such a survey which was promising, but it was clear from our interviews that such a project would need substantial involvement and guidance from a cross section of major religious denominations. The challenges involved designing a questionnaire with language commonly understood by various denominations, developing a methodology for the survey, and identifying an organization to conduct the survey.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR submitted its proposal for the "religion and philanthropy" project to the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the Pew Charitable Trusts in June 1986. The centerpiece of that project was to conduct a national survey of local religious congregations in the United States. In September 1986, both foundations agreed to jointly support this effort.

Many people cooperated with this project, including the following leaders of three major religious groups: *Frances Mlocek*, U.S. Catholic Conference; *Carmi Schwartz*, Council of Jewish Federations; and *Peggy Schriver*, National Council of Churches.

A Technical Advisory Committee, reflecting of the broad diversity of religious organizations and scholars specializing in the independent sector, was formed to provide guidance in developing methodology and designing the survey. Throughout the project, the members of this committee proved ready to help when we needed further guidance, information, or simply encouragement. They were:

Arthur C. Borden, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability
Elizabeth Boris, Council on Foundations
Martin Bradley, Southern Baptist Convention
Beverly Campbell, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Joel Carpenter, Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals

Emmett D. Carson, Joint Center for Political Studies, Inc.
N. J. Demerath, III, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts
Robert P. Dugan, Jr., National Association of Evangelicals
James Dunn, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
Joseph Eaglin, Congress of National Black Churches
Richard Engdahl, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Thomas Getman, World Vision
Yvonne Haddad, Department of History, University of Massachusetts
Eugene Hemrick, U.S. Catholic Conference
Constant H. Jacquet, Jr., National Council of Churches
Douglas Johnson, United Methodist Church
Lawrence N. Jones, Divinity School, Howard University
Arthur D. Kirsch, Departments of Statistics and Psychology, George Washington University
Louis Knowles, Council on Foundations
Barry S. Kosmin, Council of Jewish Federations
Don Leach, Moody Bible Institute
Anne D. Martin, Church Women United
William McKinney, Hartford Seminary
Lou McNeil, Glenmary Research Center
Billy Melvin, National Association of Evangelicals
Frances Mlocek, U.S. Catholic Conference
Ralph Nelson, Department of Economics, Queens College, City University of New York
David Ramage, Jr., McCormick Theological Seminary
Russy D. Sumariwalla, United Way Institute
Martin Paul Trimble, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Kouryu Tsuji, Ekoji Buddhist Temple
Lynn Walker, The Ford Foundation

Finally, in a survey such as this, for which there are no guideposts or history to fall back on, grateful acknowledgments go to the INDEPENDENT SECTOR consultants and staff, and the staff of The Gallup Organization, who have worked so hard to produce these findings; my two coauthors, *Murray S. Weitzman*, research consultant to INDEPENDENT SECTOR, and *Arthur D. Kirsch*, professor of statistics and psychology at George Washington University and methodologist for this project; and *Christopher Toppe*, senior consultant to the National Center for Charitable Statistics at INDEPENDENT SECTOR. In addition, I want to thank *Steve Noga*, of the National Center for Charitable Statistics staff, and *Scott Quehl*, INDEPENDENT SECTOR research assistant, for their efforts in computer programming and table designs, as well as *Richard Michaud*, research executive secretary, who tirelessly typed various versions of the manuscript. And I want to thank *Diane Colasanto* and *Harry Cotugno* of The Gallup Organization for being willing to experiment and for conducting the survey and preparing the questionnaires for analysis. It is through the participation of all these people, and the cooperation of the congregations that responded to the survey, that this report is possible.

Virginia A. Hodgkinson
Vice President, Research
December 1988

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INTRODUCTION

A religious congregation is a community of people who meet together for worship, for fellowship, and for service to their members and the larger communities in which they live. Religious congregations have served important community functions since colonial days. When the Constitution was written, Americans insisted on freedom of religious choice and the right to free assembly. No specific denomination could become a state or a national church, and religious belief and expression became a private matter. Thus congregations became voluntary associations under the law.

The separation of church and state in this country has led to active participation by Americans in more than a hundred denominations in some 300,000 congregations. A recent survey in the United States revealed that about 60 percent of adults reported attending church in the past six months, and 65 percent reported that they were members of a church or synagogue. Fifty-two percent of adults reported contributing to their church or synagogue. It was estimated from that survey that nearly two-thirds of all individual giving went to religious congregations. Nearly half of those who gave to their congregations also reported giving to other charities and volunteering for a variety of organizations, including religious institutions. What we do not know is the relationship between religion and charitable behavior in general. Because of the interpretation of the law regarding separation between church and state, the government does not collect information on regular participation in congregations or on religious giving and volunteering. Nor does the government collect information on religious institutions.

In total revenues, religious congregations, denominational organizations, associations, and institutions represent the third largest subsector of the independent sector after health and education. These finances, however, have been estimated. Very little is known about the expenditures of congregations, including the proportion of funds given specifically for religious services, other services to members, or donations to other organizations. Also, very little is known about the total funds contributed, the number of volunteers at these institutions, or the extent to which congregations are involved in the charitable activities of their local communities.

Although several denominations have surveyed the finances and activities of their own congregations, there is no national survey of all congregations for all denominations. The purpose of this study was to attempt to collect information on a national basis about the activities and finances of congregations in order to gain some understanding of the size, scope, and philanthropic activities of these institutions. The survey was designed to find answers to the following questions:

1. ***What are the size and membership composition of congregations?***
2. ***Where are the congregations located by region of the country and by urban, suburban, or rural areas?***
3. ***What are the congregations' programs in religion, education, health, human services, international activities, community development, civil rights, arts and culture, and the environment?***
4. ***What are the total revenues of the congregations, and what proportions of these revenues come from individual giving or other sources of funds?***
5. ***What are the expenditures of congregations? How much money do they spend on operations and programs, and how much do they use for other purposes?***

6. ***How many people from the congregation volunteer to perform various activities, and how many hours per month do they volunteer?***

7. ***How many programs, such as services to the elderly, do congregations operate directly, and how many programs do they support indirectly through contributions or through the voluntary service of members of the congregation?***

With these questions we hoped to gain an initial understanding of the range of activities of congregations and their participation in the larger community. We also wanted to estimate nationally the size, scope, source, and purpose of revenues and expenditures of congregations, and the ways these activities and expenditures relate to total philanthropy in the United States.

How the Survey Was Designed and Conducted

Because there is no government census of congregations as there are censuses of most other major institutional groupings in our society, developing a national sample was the first major challenge. Determining the questions and developing language on the questionnaire that would be commonly understood by congregations across denominations formed the second major challenge. Determining the methodology of the survey and deciding who would conduct it constituted the third major challenge.

A National Advisory Committee representative of the major religions—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mormons, Muslims, and Buddhists—was formed in 1986. The committee included representatives from the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the Council of Jewish Federations, and the U.S. National Conference. It also included scholars from several denominations, as well as researchers who were knowledgeable about the nonprofit sector generally and had experience in conducting national surveys.

This group worked for several months on the challenges just enumerated. The results of their deliberations were as follows:

- ***The national study would be limited to local congregations;*** it would not include denominational organizations or other religious charities, such as Catholic charities, or religiously affiliated institutions, such as schools or hospitals. The national sample would be developed from the telephone directory. Congregations included would have both addresses and telephone numbers, so that the small percentage of informal congregational groups that did not have an official meeting place would be excluded. The telephone directory search gave us an unduplicated count of 294,271 separate congregations in nine census regions, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. The only other breakdowns available were by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas within these regions, and by denomination of the congregations. Because there was no nationally collected information available on the size of congregations, location in urban areas, or level of revenues, the congregations would be randomly sampled within each of the 18 combinations of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas within the nine census regions.

- ***The Advisory Committee decided that its members would design and approve the questionnaire.*** Hundreds of denominational surveys and studies were reviewed. The final questionnaire had the language most congregations would understand, but the committee knew that many denominations did not collect information on volunteer hours and would probably have difficulty in breaking out expenditures by specific program areas. The committee decided that learning what congregations did not know about their activities could be just as illuminating as learning what they did know.

- ***The methodology was developed by INDEPENDENT SECTOR together with the Gallup Organization and approved by the Advisory Committee.*** The work was carried out in three stages:

    1. A total of 4,205 congregations were randomly selected in the 18 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas within the nine census regions to be surveyed by telephone. The congregations chosen reflected both the denominations and the number of congregations by standard metropolitan and nonmetropolitan statistical areas. The sample was completed in the fall of 1987.

    2. Follow-up, detailed questionnaires were then sent to these congregations to complete. Two sets of questionnaires were sent out and completed in the winter of 1988. The second questionnaire was a modified, shortened version of the first.

    3. Congregations that did not respond to the previous two questionnaires were surveyed briefly by telephone — using a shorter questionnaire developed for this purpose — so that the sample of congregations would be nationally representative. The final sample included demographic information for 4,205 congregations; basic fiscal and activities information for 1,862 institutions, and more detailed information from longer questionnaires from 1,353 congregations.

The report that follows provides the highlights of the survey and the findings.

From Belief to Commitment: The Activities and Expenditures of Religious Congregations in the United States: Highlights

INDEPENDENT SECTOR commissioned this first national survey of the activities and finances of religious congregations in order to estimate the scope of community services and contributions of religious organizations in the United States. From May 1987 through March 1988, the Gallup Organization conducted a three-stage survey, including telephone interviews with representatives from 4,205 local congregations, a common questionnaire by mail and telephone with 1,862 congregations, of which 1,353 responded to a more detailed questionnaire. This survey was limited to congregations; therefore, it did not include denominational organizations, religious charities, or religiously owned or affiliated institutions, such as schools or hospitals. Congregations were asked a series of questions relating to membership, program activities, employees, volunteers, and revenues and expenditures. The purpose of this study is to provide much-needed information about the kinds of community activities and contributions made on behalf of religious congregations to American society.

- ***In 1986, there were an estimated 294,000 religious congregations in the United States.*** The total revenues of these congregations were $49.6 billion, of which 82 percent came from individual donations.

- ***In 1986, the total expenditures of religious congregations were estimated at $48.1 billion*** of which $35.7 billion (74 percent) was used for current programs and activities, $8.4 billion (17 percent) was donated directly by congregations to other organizations and individuals, and $4.0 billion (8 percent) was spent on capital outlays. Of the $8.4 billion donated by congregations, $5.5 billion went to denominational organizations and charities, such as Catholic charities, $1.9 billion was donated to other charitable organizations in the community, and $1.0 billion was given in direct assistance to individuals.

- ***Congregations spent $48.8 billion on current programs and activities of which $35.7 billion was for paid expenditures and $13.1 billion was for the assigned value of volunteer time.*** Of this $48.8 billion, $28.5 billion (58 percent) was for religious activities, including religious education, and $20.3 billion (42 percent) was for other program activities. These other program activities included: $7.0 billion (14 percent) for education, $4.6 billion (9 percent) for human services, $2.8 billion (6 percent) on health and hospitals, $1.6 billion (3 percent) for public and societal benefit programs (human justice and community development), $1.6 billion (3 percent) for arts and culture, $1.5 billion (3 percent) for international activities, and $0.7 billion (1.4 percent) on environmental quality.

- ***The $19.1 billion expended or donated by congregations to other than religious activities in 1986 really represents an increased expenditure on a variety of activity areas unidentified previously in giving studies.*** In 1986, total giving by individuals was $72.03 billion, as reported in *Giving USA* (1988 edition), of which $41.7 billion (58 percent) went to religion. The findings in this study show that adjusting giving to congregations for activities other than religious ones that they support ($19.1 billion) would lower this percentage to 31 percent. This $19.1 billion for activities other than religious services represents more than one-quarter of total individual giving.

- ***Donations and expenditures by religious congregations for other activities increased total contributions from all sources in 1986,*** as reported in *Giving USA,* to education by 40 percent from $10.1 billion to $14.1 billion; to health by 13 percent from $12.3 to $13.9 billion; to human services by 27 percent from $9.1 billion to $11.6 billion; to arts and culture by 10 percent from $5.8 billion to $6.4 billion; to public or societal benefit programs by 33 percent from $2.4 billion to $3.2 billion.

- ***Individuals contributed an estimated $41.4 billion to congregations in 1986:*** $14.9 billion (37 percent) came from pledges, $24.7 billion (57 percent) from collections, and $1.9 billion (5 percent) from fixed fees (such as membership fees). Of this amount, $22.3 billion (54 percent) was used for religious programs and $19.1 billion (46 percent) was used for other program activities and donations by congregations to other organizations.

- ***Nine out of ten congregations reported that they used volunteers to perform work in their congregations.*** There were 253,000 volunteer clergy who gave an average of 70 hours per month. Overall, 10.4 million volunteers, other than clergy, worked an average of 10 hours per month in congregational programs. Fifty-two percent of those volunteer hours were devoted to religious programs, and 48 percent to other congregational programs, including elementary, secondary, and higher education (18 percent), human services and welfare (12 percent), health or hospitals (7 percent), public or societal benefit (5 percent), arts and culture (6 percent), international activities (5 percent), and environmental quality (1 percent). Overall, volunteers represented 85 percent of the total employees at religious congregations.

- ***The estimated value of volunteer time to congregations was $13.1 billion in 1986*** of which $6.8 billion (52 percent) went to religious programs, and $6.3 billion (48 percent) went to other congregational programs.

- ***Congregations participated in a wide variety of programs and activities in addition to religious programs.*** Approximately 87 percent of all congregations (256,000) reported one or more programs in human services and welfare, including 80 percent in family counseling programs (233,000); 79 percent (231,000) reported one or more programs in international activities, including 71 percent in relief abroad programs; 70 percent (205,000) reported programs for public or societal benefits, including 46 percent in community development programs; 68 percent (199,000) reported programs in health, including 56 percent involved in institutional care, such as hospitals, nursing homes, or hospices; 43 percent (125,000) reported programs in arts and culture; 38 percent (112,000) reported programs in education, including 38 percent in elementary education; and 27 percent (79,000) reported programs for the improvement of the environment.

- ***Over 9 out of 10 congregations reported that their facilities were available to groups within the congregation,*** and 6 out of 10 congregations reported that their facilities were available to groups in the community.

- ***Sixty percent of congregations reported that they provided in-kind support,*** like food, clothing, and housing to human services programs operated by denominational or community groups.

- ***Of the estimated 686,000 clergy at congregations in 1986, 435,000 (63 percent) were paid and 253,000 (37 percent) were volunteer.***

- ***There were approximately 1.6 million paid employees in congregations in 1986:*** 352,000 were full-time, 499,000 part-time and 306,000 were nominally paid.

- ***In 1986, of the 294,000 congregations in the United States, 60,000 were small (less than 100 members); 124,000 were medium-size (100 to 399 members); and 103,000 were large (400 members or more).*** Approximately 3 percent of congregations did not report their size.

- ***Thirty percent of congregations were founded before 1900;*** 16 percent between 1900 and 1930, 35 percent between 1931 and 1970, and 15 percent since 1971, indicating the continuing vitality of religious institutions in the United States.

- ***When congregations were asked to rank themselves on a scale from 1 (liberal) to (very conservative) 10, 14 percent of congregations ranked themselves as liberal; 26 percent as moderate, 39 percent as conservative, and 18 percent as very conservative.*** Congregations founded since 1971 were three times more likely to report themselves as very conservative than as liberal. While congregations founded before 1900 were equally as likely to report their orientation as liberal to moderate as they were to report their orientation as conservative or very conservative, since 1971, over two-thirds of congregations (69 percent) reported their orientation as conservative or very conservative compared to 29 percent that reported their orientation as liberal or moderate.

- ***Fifty-four percent (160,000) of congregations reported that their membership had increased compared to five years ago;*** another 26 percent (75,000) reported no change, and 18 percent (54,000) reported a decrease in membership.

- ***A majority of congregations reported that they did not expect much change in individual giving to their congregations from 1986 to 1987.*** Forty-four percent expected a small increase; 13 percent expected a large increase; 20 percent expected no change; and 7 percent expected some decrease in giving.

CHAPTER 1
A National Profile of Religious Congregations

One of the purposes of this survey was to develop an overview of the number, size, and location of religious congregations in the United States. Because there was no omnibus directory of congregations, the Yellow Pages of the various telephone systems in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, were used.

All listings from these pages under "churches," "synagogues," "temples," and similar listings like "clergy" were included in a broad data base. All institutions that had more than one listing with the same telephone number were placed on one record and the listings reduced to the central place of worship. For example, if a listing had "Baptist Church," "clergy," "Baptist Religious School," all at the same telephone number, the listing was reduced to simply "Baptist Church." All schools that had no "church" listing were omitted from the population data base. This procedure produced a total of 294,271 unduplicated telephone listings for congregations.

Table 1.1 shows the geographic distribution of congregations within the nine census regions divided by their location in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and nonmetropolitan statistical areas (non-MSAs). Approximately 202,000 congregations (69 percent) were located in metropolitan areas and 92,000 (31 percent) were in nonmetropolitan areas.

Because other information such as membership size or level of revenues was not available to help in the design of a stratified sample, the national sample was randomly drawn by geographic location and denomination within these regions. Each of the random samples was drawn in direct proportion of the population within the denomination and the particular census region, and weighted to the total population of congregations.

TABLE 1.1
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS
(Percentages in parenthesis)

	Population	
Census Division	Metropolitan Statistical Area	Nonmetropolitan Statistical Area
New England	6,099 (2.1)	1,259 (0.4)
Mid-Atlanic	27,033 (9.2)	4,235 (1.4)
East-North Central	41,174 (14.0)	15,965 (5.4)
West-North Central	13,418 (4.6)	16,934 (5.7)
South Atlantic	35,913 (12.2)	16,759 (5.7)
East-South Central	13,787 (4.7)	10,898 (3.7)
West-South Central	21,046 (7.2)	10,482 (3.6)
Mountain	10,846 (3.7)	9,845 (3.3)
Pacific	32,523 (11.1)	6,055 (2.1)
Total	201,839 (68.8)	92,432 (31.3)
Total Population	294,271	

Note: Data are from Yellow Page listings of congregations for all states by census region. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Congregations by Founding Dates

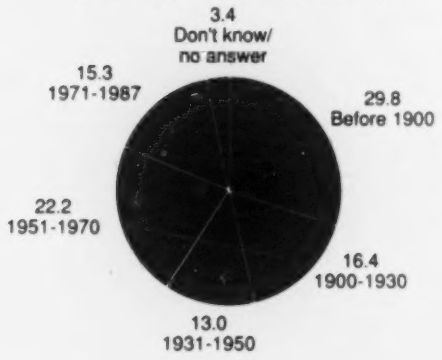
Respondents were asked when their congregations were founded. **Table 1.2** shows that approximately 87,600 congregations (30 percent) were founded before 1900; 48,000 (16 percent) from 1900 to 1930; 38,000 (13 percent) from 1931 to 1950; 65,000 (22 percent) from 1951 to 1970; and 45,000 (15 percent) from 1971 to 1987. About 3 percent of respondents did not know the founding date of their congregation. Approximately 7 out of 10 congregations have been founded since 1900, and nearly 4 out of 10 since 1951. Since 1900, the most active creation period for the formation of religious congregations in the United States was from 1951 to 1970. This pattern continued during the 1970s and 1980s, indicating that religious institutions are a vital part of American culture.

TABLE 1.2
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY FOUNDING PERIOD

Founding Period	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Total Congregations
Before 1900	87,642	29.8
1900-1930	48,280	16.4
1931-1950	38,261	13.0
1951-1970	65,235	22.2
1971-1987	44,878	15.3
Don't know/ no answer	9,974	3.4
Total	294,271	100.1
Mean (year) of founding	1904	
Median (year) of founding	1936	

Note: Columns do not add to totals because of rounding.
Question: In what year was your congregation formed?

FIGURE 1.1
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY FOUNDING PERIOD
(Percentage of Total Congregations)



Congregations by Membership Size

After respondents reported on the membership size of their congregations, congregations were grouped by size: small (generally fewer than 100 members), medium-size (100 to 399 members), and large (400 members or more). **Table 1.3** shows that approximately 60,000 congregations (20 percent) were classified as small congregations; 124,000 (42 percent) as medium-size; and 102,700 (35 percent) as large. About 6 out of 10 congregations in this country had fewer than 400 members, and 4 out of 10 had 400 members or more.

TABLE 1.3
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE

Size of Congregation	Number	Percentage
[a]Small	60,300	20.5
[b]Medium	123,832	42.1
[c]Large	102,679	34.9
[d]Don't know/ no answer	7,456	2.5
Total	294,271	100.0

Note: Column does not add to total because of rounding.

[a]Small congregations are those with fewer than 100 members or nonmembers. Congregations with fewer than 100 members but with either 100 or more nonmembers or an unspecified number of nonmembers who attend services or participate in the congregations' activities are classified as medium-size congregations.

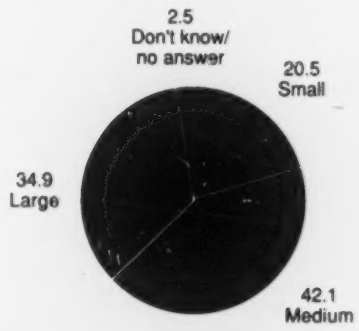
[b]Medium-size congregations have between 100 and 399 members in addition to those indicated in note a.

[c]Large congregations have 400 or more members.

[d]Congregations not responding to the question on membership were classified as Don't know/no answer.

Question: Currently, what is the estimated number of members in your congregation, that is, people who are on your membership rolls or who have made a formal commitment to belong? And what is the estimated number of nonmembers currently who attend services or participate in your congregation's activities?

FIGURE 1.2
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE
(Percentage)



When membership size was compared with the founding periods of congregations, some interesting patterns emerged, as shown in **table 1.4.** As might be expected, older congregations generally had a higher proportion of large congregations than did the congregations founded more recently. Approximately 42,000 (48 percent) of congregations founded before 1900 had 400 or more members; they represented 14 percent of all congregations. Nearly 44,000 congregations (36 percent) of all congregations founded between 1900 and 1960 had 400 or more members; they represented 15 percent of total congregations. Approximately 15,000 (20 percent) of congregations founded since 1960 had 400 or more members; they represented 5 percent of total congregations. In all groups, the majority of congregations had fewer than 400 members.

Table 1.5 shows the percentage distribution of congregations by size and founding period. The table indicates that the size of congregation tends to be related inversely to the recency of its founding period. The more distant the founding period, the larger the size of the congregation. Since growth generally requires the passage of time, it seems reasonable that small size congregations would be of more recent vintage than large ones. The majority of large congregations were formed before 1930 (60 percent), with 40 percent of them being formed before 1900. Only 6 percent of them were formed since 1971. In contrast, less than 25 percent of small congregations were founded before 1930, while 32 percent came into existence since 1971. Medium-size congregations are more evenly distributed among founding periods than small or large congregations.

Congregations by Orientation

Congregations were asked to rank their orientation on a 10-point scale in which 1 was "very liberal" and 10 was "very conservative." Congregations were then grouped according to the frequency of responses into four groups, as shown in **table 1.6.** Religious institutions tend to be conservative because they engage in

TABLE 1.4
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATION BY SIZE AND FOUNDING PERIOD

Size of Congregation	Founding Period: Pre-1900 (Number)	Pre-1900 (Percent)	1900-1960 (Number)	1900-1960 (Percent)	1961-1987 (Number)	1961-1987 (Percent)	Don't know/no answer (Number)	Don't know/no answer (Percent)	Total (Number)	Total (Percent)
Small										
Fewer than 100[a]	7,754	2.6	23,888	8.1	25,687	8.7	2,971	1.0	60,300	20.4
Medium										
100-199	12,342	4.2	22,213	7.5	16,809	5.7	1,905	0.6	53,269	18.0
200-299	13,178	4.5	16,912	5.7	8,534	2.9	1,091	0.4	39,715	13.5
300-399	10,419	3.5	12,049	4.1	7,392	2.5	988	0.3	30,848	10.4
	35,939	12.2	51,174	17.1	32,735	11.1	3,984	1.3	123,832	42.1
Large										
400-499	9,278	3.1	8,676	2.9	3,470	1.2	0	0.0	21,424	7.2
500-999	18,744	6.4	19,231	6.5	6,570	2.2	1,061	0.4	45,606	15.5
1,000-1,999	9,602	3.3	9,294	3.2	2,528	0.9	267	0.1	21,691	7.5
2,000-2,999	2,237	0.8	3,155	1.1	1,062	0.4	295	0.1	6,749	2.4
3,000 or more	1,980	0.7	3,557	1.2	1,495	0.5	177	0.1	7,209	2.4
	41,841	14.3	43,913	14.9	15,125	5.2	1,800	0.7	102,679	34.9
Don't know/ no answer	2,105	0.7	2,516	0.8	1,617	0.5	1,218	0.4	7,456	2.5
Total	87,642	29.8	121,492	41.3	75,163	25.5	9,974	3	294,271	99.9

Note: Columns may not add to totals because of rounding.

[a]These estimates include churches with 100 or more nonmembers.

TABLE 1.5
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE AND FOUNDING PERIOD

Size of Congregation	Pre-1900	1900-1930	1931-1950	1951-1970	1971-1987	Don't know/ no answer	Total	Total Congregations All Periods
Small	12.60	11.08	16.33	23.14	32.04	4.81	100.0	18.87
Medium	28.58	15.86	14.30	22.99	15.26	3.01	100.0	40.95
Large	40.75	19.48	10.59	21.49	5.93	1.76	100.0	34.89
Don't know/ no answer	28.03	19.34	6.98	16.77	16.78	12.10	100.0	5.29
								100.0

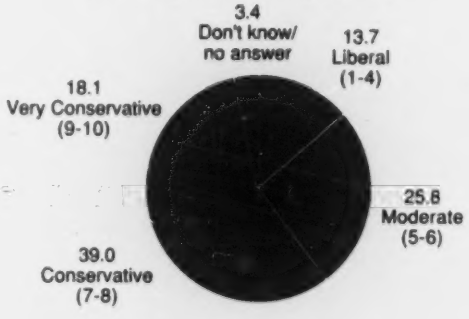
TABLE 1.6
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SELF-RANKING ON LIBERAL TO CONSERVATIVE SCALE

Scale	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Total Congregations
Liberal (1-4)	40,191	13.7
Moderate (5-6)	75,819	25.8
Conservative (7-8)	114,635	39.0
Very conservative (9-10)	53,184	18.1
Don't know/ no answer	10,442	3.4
Total	294,271	100.0

Question: When describing your congregation or institution on a 10-point scale, with 1 meaning very liberal and 10 meaning very conservative, which number would be most representative? You may use any number from 1 to 10.

FIGURE 1.3
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SELF-RANKING ON LIBERAL TO CONSERVATIVE SCALE

(Percentage of Total Congregations)



and preserve religious tradition. Therefore, nearly 6 out of 10 congregations ranked themselves 7 or higher on the scale. Overall, 26 percent of congregations ranked themselves as moderate, 39 percent as conservative, 18 percent as very conservative, and 14 percent as liberal.

When congregations were grouped by orientation and founding period, as **table 1.7** shows about the same proportion of congregations (38 to 40 percent) reported themselves as conservative across all founding periods. Patterns were different among those congregations that reported their orientation as liberal, moderate, or very conservative. The highest proportions of congregations that reported themselves as liberal (15 percent) or moderate (32 percent) were founded before 1900. Both these groups, but particularly moderate congregations, have declined since 1900. Only 11 percent of congregations founded since 1971 reported their orientation as liberal, and 18 percent reported their orientation as moderate. In contrast, only 10 percent of congregations founded before 1900 reported their orientation as very conservative, compared with 30 percent of congregations founded since 1970.

Congregations by Location

When congregations are grouped by type of community, as shown in **table 1.8,** more than 40 percent reported their location in large or small cities. Another 26 percent are located in towns; nearly 20 percent are located in suburbs and 13 percent are located in open country or farm areas.

TABLE 1.8
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY IN WHICH THE CONGREGATION IS LOCATED

Community	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Total Congregations
Large city	51,360	17.5
Small city	68,233	23.2
Town	76,062	25.8
Suburban area	56,411	19.2
Open country/farm	38,705	13.2
Don't know/ no answer	3,500	1.2
Total	294,271	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to totals becaues of rounding.

Question: Which of the following best describes the community in which your congregation is located?

TABLE 1.7
PATTERNS IN ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATIONS BY FOUNDING PERIOD
(Percentage of congregations formed by period)

Orientation	Pre-1900	1900-1930	1931-1950	1951-1970	1971-1987	Total Congregations All Periods
Liberal	15.39	13.08	13.92	13.98	10.85	14.28
Moderate	31.95	28.08	23.55	24.47	18.23	25.56
Subtotal	47.34	41.16	37.47	38.45	29.08	39.84
Conservative	39.45	39.64	38.88	38.72	38.44	39.47
Very conservative	10.18	15.48	21.35	19.32	30.06	17.35
Subtotal	49.63	55.12	60.23	58.04	68.50	56.82
Don't know/ no answer	3.03	3.71	2.29	3.51	2.43	3.34
Total	100.00	99.99	99.99	100.00	100.01	100.00

Note: Columns may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Congregations founded before 1900 are fairly evenly divided among those that reported themselves as liberal or moderate (47 percent), conservative or very conservative (50 percent), but only 29 percent of congregations founded since 1970 reported themselves as liberal or moderate, compared with nearly 68 percent of congregations that reported themselves as conservative or very conservative. Although there was a slight increase in the proportion of liberal and moderate congregations (and a slight decline in the proportion of very conservative congregations) founded between 1951 and 1970, compared with congregations founded between 1931 and 1950, that pattern was reversed between 1971 and 1987. For every liberal congregation founded since 1971, three very conservative congregations were founded. These findings indicate an important major shift in congregational orientation from liberal or moderate to conservative or very conservative over the past two decades.

Table 1.9 shows the types of communities in which congregations are located by founding period. Some 62 percent of congregations in rural areas and 56 percent in towns were founded before 1930. Congregations in large cities were fairly evenly divided, with 39 percent founded before 1930 and 40 percent founded since 1951. A similar pattern occurred among congregations in small cities: 43 percent were founded before 1930 and 42 percent since 1951. Not surprisingly, only 32 percent of congregations in the suburbs were founded before 1930; 53 percent have been founded since 1951. Congregational formation has mirrored the changing residence patterns among the population in the nation, with a higher proportion of congregations being founded in the suburbs and in large and small cities than in towns or rural areas.

Table 1.10 shows the types of communities in which the congregations are located by congregation size.

TABLE 1.9
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY IN WHICH CONGREGATION IS LOCATED AND FOUNDING PERIOD
(Percentage of congregations)

Location of Community	Pre-1900	1900-1930	1931-1950	1951-1970	1971-1987	Don't know/ no answer	Total	Total Congregations All Periods
Large city	20.27	19.02	18.38	27.25	12.70	2.38	100.00	17.45
Small city	25.70	16.95	13.14	23.96	16.30	3.95	100.00	23.19
Town	38.97	17.12	11.05	14.84	14.79	3.23	100.00	25.85
Suburb	19.52	12.90	12.73	32.62	20.78	1.45	100.00	19.17
Rural	47.25	15.11	10.66	11.31	10.61	5.06	100.00	13.15
Don't know/ no answer	21.43	22.78	3.81	23.74	4.40	23.84	100.00	1.19
								100.00

Question: Which of the following best describes the community in which your congregation is located?

TABLE 1.10
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY IN WHICH CONGREGATION IS LOCATED AND SIZE OF CONGREGATION

Size of Congregation	Large City		Small City		Town		Suburban Area		Open Country/ Farm		Don't know/ no answer		Total	
	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)
Small														
Fewer than 100	8,953	3.0	14,552	4.9	17,468	5.9	8,071	2.7	10,375	3.5	881	0.3	60,300	20.5
Medium-Size														
100-199	9,332	3.2	10,031	3.4	13,865	4.7	11,095	3.8	8,649	2.9	297	0.1	53,269	18.1
200-299	6,124	2.1	7,681	2.6	13,535	4.6	6,399	2.2	5,634	1.9	343	0.1	39,716	13.5
300-399	4,594	1.6	7,092	2.4	8,239	2.8	5,428	1.8	5,118	1.7	376	0.1	30,847	10.4
	20,050	6.9	24,804	8.4	35,639	12.1	22,922	7.8	19,401	6.5	1,016	0.3	123,832	42.0
Large-Size														
400-499	4,195	1.4	4,620	1.6	5,491	1.9	4,815	1.6	2,142	0.7	160	0.0	21,423	7.2
500-999	8,557	2.9	13,179	4.5	9,537	3.2	10,856	3.7	3,477	1.2	0	0.0	45,606	15.5
1000-1999	4,771	1.6	5,886	2.0	4,897	1.7	4,006	1.4	2,132	0.7	0	0.0	21,692	7.4
2000-2999	1,241	0.4	2,401	0.8	863	0.3	1,826	0.6	217	0.1	202	0.1	6,750	2.3
3000 or more	1,420	0.5	1,577	0.5	1,139	0.4	2,760	0.9	312	0.1	0	0.0	7,208	2.4
	20,184	6.8	27,663	9.4	21,927	7.5	24,263	8.2	8,280	2.8	362	0.1	102,679	34.8
Don't know/ no answer	2,172	0.7	1,212	0.4	1,029	0.3	1,156	0.4	647	0.2	1,240	0.4	7,456	2.4
Total	51,359	17.4	68,233	23.2	76,062	25.8	56,411	19.2	38,705	13.1	3,500	1.2	294,271	99.7

Note: Columns may not add to totals because of rounding.

Not surprisingly, small congregations are more likely to be found in towns or rural areas than in more populated areas. About 77 percent of congregations located in open country or farm areas reported memberships of less than 400, as did 70 percent of congregations in towns. A smaller proportion of congregations in large cities (56 percent), small cities (58 percent), and suburban areas (55 percent) reported membership size of under 400.

Respondents to the survey were also asked whether their congregation was located downtown, in a residential area, or on the outskirts of town. **Table 1.11** shows that 44 percent of congregations are located in a residential area, 19 percent are located downtown or in a central city, and 2 percent on the outskirts of town. Thirty-five percent of respondents either did not know or did not answer this question.

TABLE 1.11
DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS BY TYPE OF AREA IN WHICH THE CONGREGATION IS LOCATED

Area	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Total Congregations
Downtown	57,075	19.4
Residential area	130,191	44.2
Outskirts of town	5,322	1.8
Don't know/ no answer	101,684	34.6
Total	294,271	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to totals because of rounding.

Question: Would you say the area of the city your congregation is in is part of the downtown or city center, a residential area, or the outskirts of town?

CHAPTER 2
The Composition and Selected Demographics of Religious Congregations

A series of questions relating to members, nonmembers, number of families, and racial and ethnic composition of congregations were asked of the entire sample. More detailed questions about the age composition of congregations were asked of a smaller sample of 1,353 congregations. Chapter 1 reported on the total size of congregations, which included members and nonmembers. This chapter provides more details about the demographic characteristics of congregations.

Nonmembers in Congregations

About 73 percent of congregations reported that they had fewer than 100 nonmembers attending religious services or participating in congregational activities, as shown in **table 2.1.** Another 10 percent reported that they had between 100 and 199 nonmembers participating. Some 7 percent reported that they had 200 or more nonmembers in their congregations. Nine percent of congregations either did not know or gave no answer to this question. These findings suggest that most congregations are open to new members or have some nonmembers participating in their activities.

TABLE 2.1
NUMBER OF NONMEMBERS ESTIMATED TO BE PARTICIPATING IN CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Nonmembers	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Total Congregations
Fewer than 100	215,803	73.3
100-199	29,102	9.9
200-299	8,595	2.9
300-399	4,710	1.6
400+	8,336	2.8
Don't know/ no answer	27,725	9.4
Total	294,271	99.9

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Question: What is the estimated number of nonmembers in your congregation who attend services or participate in your congregation's activities?

Families in Congregations

Congregations were asked to estimate the number of families in their congregations, because some denominations do not include children as full members until they reach the age at which they can make their own decision to become members. As can be seen in **table 2.2,** 41 percent of the congregations reported that there were fewer than 100 families in their congregations. Another 20 percent of congregations reported from 100 to 199 families, and another 11 percent reported from 200 to 299 families. These groups represented 73 percent of all congregations. About 14 percent of congregations reported 400 or more families in their congregations, and 7 percent did not know or had no answer.

TABLE 2.2
NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN CONGREGATIONS

Number of Families	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Congregations
Fewer than 100	121,572	41.3
100-199	59,361	20.2
200-299	33,627	11.4
300-399	16,676	5.7
400-499	10,490	3.6
500-999	19,226	6.5
1,000+	12,033	4.0
Don't know/ no answer	21,286	7.2
Total	294,271	99.9

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Question: What is the estimated number of families or households represented altogether by members and nonmembers in your congregation?

The Composition of Congregations by Age

A smaller group of 1,353 congregations received a more detailed set of questions. This group was asked to apportion their congregations by specific age groups, **(table 2.3).** The bulk of congregational membership was found to be between 18 and 64 years of age: 43 percent of congregations reported from 40 to 60 percent of their memberships in this age group, and another 32 percent reported more than 60 percent. Some 44 percent of congregations reported that 10 to 30 percent of their congregations were 65 years of age or older. About 19 percent of congregations reported that 1 to 10 percent of their members were 65 years of age or older. About 73 percent of all congregations reported less than 20 percent of their members were 7 years of age or younger. Another 10 percent reported that from 20 to 29 percent of their congregation was 7 years of age or younger. Half of all congregations reported that less than 20 percent of their members were between 7 and 17 years of age. Another one-quarter reported that from 20 to 29 percent of their participants were between 7 and 17 years of age.

TABLE 2.3
COMPOSITION OF CONGREGATIONS BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS
(Percentage of all congregations)

Percentage in the Congregation	Age Group			
	Under age 7	Age 7-17	Age 18-64	Age 65 or Older
0	3.1	1.5	0.2	3.6
1-9	30.6	13.9	0.3	19.4
10-19	42.0	36.2	0.9	27.2
20-29	9.7	25.2	3.1	17.1
30-39	1.5	7.8	8.0	8.6
40-49	0.1	2.1	16.6	4.9
50-59	0.0	0.2	26.2	3.0
60-69	0.0	0.2	19.8	1.6
70-99	0.1	0.0	12.0	1.6
Don't know/ no answer	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Total	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0

Note: Data are from 1,353 congregations that responded to a more detailed set of questions. The reliability of these figures is subject to more error than questions responded to by the whole sample. Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: Approximately what percentage of the persons (members and nonmembers) in your congregation fall into each of the following age groups?

TABLE 2.4
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF VARIOUS ETHNIC AND RACIAL GROUPS IN CONGREGATIONS

Percentage in the Congregation	Racial or Ethnic Group					
	White	Black	Hispanic Origin[a]	American Indian	Asian	Other
0	2.4	60.7	66.2	83.5	73.3	88.0
1-9	1.6	22.6	18.9	7.5	16.1	2.8
10-19	0.4	2.6	3.5	0.3	0.9	0.3
20-89	10.1	2.6	2.7	0.2	0.8	0.5
90-99	37.8	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
100	39.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Don't know/ no answer	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
All congregations	99.9	100.1	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 because of rounding.

[a]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Question: Within your congregation, what percentage is white, black, Asian, American Indian, or of Hispanic origin?

The Composition of Congregations by Racial and Ethnic Groups

Congregations were asked to provide the percentage of their participants by particular racial and ethnic groups. As can be seen in **table 2.4,** nearly 40 percent reported that their congregations were all white, and another 38 percent reported that their members were between 90 and 99 percent white. Only 2 percent of congregations reported that they were 100 percent black.

In terms of other racial and ethnic composition, 61 percent of congregations reported that they had no blacks in their congregations; 23 percent reported that from 1 to 9 percent of their members were black. Approximately 8 percent of congregations reported that 10 percent or more of their members were black.

Approximately 66 percent of congregations reported that there were no persons of Hispanic origin in their congregations. Another 19 percent reported between 1 and 9 percent Hispanics, and 6 percent reported that more than 10 percent of their members were of Hispanic origin.

About 8 percent of congregations reported that from 1 to 9 percent of their members were American Indians, and 16 percent reported that from 1 to 9 percent of their members were of Asian origin. Accordingly, 84

percent of congregations reported that they had no American Indians in their congregations, and 73 percent reported no Asians.

Table 2.5 provides details on the 39 percent of congregations reporting that their memberships were all white. Congregations that ranked themselves as very conservative (44 percent) or could not give their orientation (43 percent) were far more likely to have all-white memberships than congregations whose orientation was liberal (30 percent). Congregations that were small (45 percent) or medium-size (42 percent) were more likely to have all-white memberships than large congregations (34 percent). Nearly half of the congregations that were founded before 1900 (48 percent) had all-white memberships, compared with one-third of congregations that were founded since 1961.

The one-quarter of total congregations that reported up to 20 percent black membership **(table 2.6)** had some characteristics that were different from those of congregations that reported all white memberships. One-fifth of very conservative congregations reported that they had from 1 to 20 percent black membership, compared with approximately one-quarter of liberal, moderate, and conservative congregations. About 19 percent of small congregations, 24 percent of medium-size, and 28 percent of large congregations reported from 1 to 20 percent black membership. Some 30 percent of congregations founded since 1961 reported up to 20 percent black membership, as did 26 percent of congregations founded between 1900 and 1960, and 20 percent of congregations founded before 1900.

Table 2.7 provides details on the 22 percent of con-

TABLE 2.5
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING 100 PERCENT WHITE MEMBERSHIP BY SELECTED CONGREGATION CHARACTERISTICS

Orientation		Size		Founding Period	
All	39.2	All	39.2	All	39.2
Liberal	29.8	Small	45.4	Pre-1900	47.8
Moderate	37.3	Medium	42.4	1900-1960	37.0
Conservative	41.2	Large	33.8	1961-1987	32.8
Very conservative	44.1	Don't know/ no answer	28.6	Don't know/ no answer	39.6
Don't know/ no answer	43.4				

TABLE 2.6
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING UP TO 20 PERCENT BLACK MEMBERSHIP BY SELECTED CONGREGATION CHARACTERISTICS

Orientation		Size		Founding Period	
All	25.2	All	25.2	All	25.2
Liberal	23.4	Small	19.3	Pre-1900	20.4
Moderate	23.5	Medium	24.4	1900-1960	25.5
Conservative	24.3	Large	28.3	1961-1987	30.2
Very conservative	20.3	Don't know/ no answer	31.6	Don't know/ no answer	25.5
Don't know/ no answer	15.9				

TABLE 2.7
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING UP TO 20 PERCENT HISPANIC-ORIGIN MEMBERSHIP[a] BY SELECTED CONGREGATION CHARACTERISTICS

Orientation		Size		Founding Period	
All	22.3	All	22.3	All	22.3
Liberal	19.7	Small	23.3	Pre-1900	14.8
Moderate	20.7	Medium	21.8	1900-1960	23.4
Conservative	23.5	Large	22.5	1961-1987	30.3
Very conservative	25.1	Don't know/ no answer	22.6	Don't know/ no answer	17.6
Don't know/ no answer	18.0				

[a]Hispanics may be of any race.

gregations reporting that 1 to 20 percent of their members were of Hispanic origin. Very conservative congregations (25 percent) were somewhat more likely to report that up to 20 percent of their members were of Hispanic origin than liberal congregations (20 percent). There was no significant difference in the proportion of congregations that reported by size of congregation. Congregations founded since 1961 (30 percent) and those founded between 1900 and 1960 (23 percent) were much more likely to report members of Hispanic origin than those founded before 1900 (15 percent).

Table 2.8 provides more detail on the 16 percent of congregations that reported from 1 to 10 percent Asian membership. Asian membership was reported by a higher proportion of congregations that reported a liberal orientation (20 percent) than those that were very conservative (12 percent). Large congregations were far more likely to report Asian membership (22 percent) than were medium-size (15 percent) or small congregations (10 percent). There were no major differences in reporting of Asian membership by founding period of congregations.

When congregations were grouped by census region, a clearer picture of racial and ethnic composition emerges. Nearly two-thirds of the congregations in the East-South Central region, which includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, reported that they had 100 percent white membership, as shown in **table 2.9.** The West-North Central region which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri, also reported a high percentage of totally white congregations. Several of these states have small minority populations. Between 13 and 15 percent of congregations in this region reported less than 20 percent black and Hispanic membership or less than 10 percent of Asian membership.

The Pacific (14 percent) and Mountain (26 percent) regions showed the lowest proportion of all-white congregations and more diverse racial and ethnic composition within their congregations. The West-South Central region had the next lowest proportion of all-white membership (32 percent). In all other regions, from 39 to 66 percent of congregations reported 100 percent white membership.

Because a large proportion of blacks, Hispanics, and Asians live in cities, the congregations in these locations reflect more diverse racial and ethnic composition (see **table 2.10.**) Whereas 58 percent of rural congregations and 51 percent of congregations in towns reported that their memberships were 100 percent white, only 23 percent of congregations in large cities, 31 percent in small cities, and 35 percent in the

TABLE 2.8
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING UP TO 10 PERCENT ASIAN MEMBERSHIP, BY SELECTED CONGREGATION CHARACTERISTICS

Orientation		Size		Founding Period	
All	16.1	All	16.1	All	16.1
Liberal	20.1	Small	10.0	Pre-1900	14.3
Moderate	18.7	Medium	14.5	1900-1960	17.3
Conservative	15.8	Large	21.8	1961-1987	17.1
Very conservative	12.0	Don't know/		Don't know/	
Don't know/		no answer	12.8	no answer	9.6
no answer	6.5				

TABLE 2.9
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING MEMBERS OF MAJOR RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUPS, BY THEIR PROPORTION IN THE CONGREGATION AND BY CENSUS REGION

Census Region	White 100 Percent	Black 1 to 20 Percent	Hispanic Origin[a] 1 to 20 Percent	Asian 1 to 10 Percent
All	39.2	25.2	22.4	16.1
East-North Central	39.3	18.8	21.4	22.7
East-South Central	66.2	15.8	4.5	7.3
Mid-Atlantic	40.3	32.5	19.2	19.2
Mountain	25.8	18.3	43.6	14.9
New England	40.6	44.8	20.1	14.0
Pacific	13.5	32.1	42.2	35.1
South Atlantic	43.7	26.9	14.2	14.8
West-North Central	54.6	13.0	13.4	14.9
West-South Central	31.6	21.7	34.2	12.1

[a]Hispanics may be of any race.

TABLE 2.10
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUP MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATIONS, BY LOCATION

Location	White 100 Percent	Black 1 to 20 Percent	Hispanic Origin[a] 1 to 20 Percent	Asian 1 to 10 Percent
Large city	22.5	36.7	22.7	17.4
Small city	31.2	29.7	22.1	18.6
Town	51.3	15.8	4.4	12.7
Suburban area	35.0	30.8	18.7	12.7
Open country/farm	58.0	13.1	11.9	8.9

[a]Hispanics may be of any race

suburbs reported that their memberships were 100 percent white. Some 37 percent of congregations in large cities, 30 percent in small cities, and 31 percent in the suburbs reported up to 20 percent black membership; 23, 22, and 19 percent of these congregations, respectively, reported up to 20 percent Hispanic membership; and 17, 19, and 13 percent of these congregations, respectively, reported up to 10 percent Asian membership.

Congregation Membership Compared with Five Years Ago

Nearly 160,000 congregations (54 percent) reported an increase in membership compared with five years ago **(table 2.11).** Another 54,000 (18 percent) reported a decrease in membership, and 75,000 (26 percent) reported no change.

TABLE 2.11
COMPARISON OF CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITH FIVE YEARS AGO, BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS

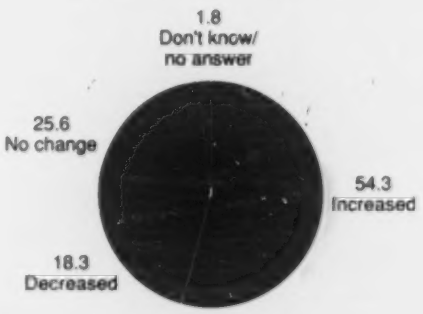
Membership	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Congregations
Increased	159,718	54.3
Decreased	53,832	18.3
No change	75,398	25.6
Don't know/ no answer	5,323	1.8
Total	294,271	100.0

Question: Compared with five years ago, would you say the number of members in your congregation has increased, stayed the same, or decreased?

Membership reported by selected age groups compared with five years ago reflected the demographic composition of the nation. More congregations reported an increase (48 percent) in the group under 7 years of age than a decrease (23 percent), reflecting an increase in the birthrate over the past decade, as shown in **table 2.12.** At the same time, more congregations reported a decrease (42 percent) than an increase (28 percent) in the group 7 to 17 years old,

FIGURE 2.1
COMPARISON OF CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITH FIVE YEARS AGO

(Percentage of Congregations)



reflecting a decline in the birthrate after 1964. Congregations were almost as likely to report an increase (41 percent) as a decrease (38 percent) in membership from the group 18 to 64 years old. Although the proportion of the population 65 years or older has been increasing, about the same proportions of congregations reported a decrease (34 percent) as an increase (35 percent) in this age group.

Congregations reported increasing membership among most ethnic and racial groups compared with five years ago, reflecting the changing racial and ethnic composition of the United States. **Table 2.13** shows that at least six out of ten congregations reported increased membership among the major racial and ethnic groups. Congregations also showed a greater decrease in membership among whites (19 percent) than among blacks (15 percent), Hispanics (12 percent), American Indians (3 percent), or Asians (11 percent). This changing composition reflects the increasing proportion of these racial and ethnic groups in the population. Most congregations (75 percent) could not provide information on other racial and ethnic groups.

In summary, more than half of all congregations reported an increase in membership compared with five years ago. Increases were particularly notable in the group below 7 years of age and among major racial and ethnic groups.

TABLE 2.12

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP BY AGE GROUPS, COMPARED WITH FIVE YEARS AGO

Proportion in the Congregation	Age Group			
	Children Under Age 7	Age 7-17	Age 18-64	Age 65 and Over
Increase	47.9	27.5	40.7	35.4
Decrease	22.5	42.4	38.0	34.0
No change	20.0	20.9	12.6	20.9
Don't know/ no answer	9.7	9.2	8.8	9.7
Total	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.0

Note: Data are from 1,353 congregations that responded to a more set of detailed questions. The reliability of these figures is subject to more error than questions reponded to by the whole sample. Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: Compared with five years ago, what changes in the composition of your congregation, if any, have occurred among age groups?

TABLE 2.13

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING ON MEMBERSHIP BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS COMPARED WITH FIVE YEARS AGO

Proportion in the Congregation	Racial or Ethnic Group					
	White	Black	Hispanic Origin[a]	American Indian	Asian	Other
Increase	65.6	60.8	62.3	68.0	62.0	24.1
Decrease	18.6	15.4	12.4	2.7	10.8	1.0
No change	9.4	3.7	2.7	0.9	2.1	0.3
Don't know/ no answer	6.5	20.0	22.6	28.4	25.1	74.6
Total	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 because of rounding.

[a]Hispanics may be of any race.

Question: Compared with five years ago, what changes in the composition of your congregation, if any, have occurred among the following racial/ethnic groups?

CHAPTER 3
The Activities of Religious Congregations

Congregations engage in a variety of activities in their communities. This chapter describes the activities of congregations. It also provides information about the use of congregational facilities by groups within or outside the congregations, and about nonfinancial or in-kind contributions of congregations. The chapter also discusses the attitudes of congregations about changes in public policy and their impact on congregational activities.

The Activities of Congregations

Respondents for the whole sample were given a list of activities other than religious services and religious education and were asked to indicate those activities for which their congregations provided support or services. As shown in **table 3.1,** many congregations are involved in variety of activities ranging from education to health services. The activities most commonly mentioned by congregations were human services (87 percent) and international programs (79 percent). Nearly 7 out of 10 congregations reported supporting programs of benefit to the public, such as community development, and health programs. Almost 43 percent of congregations had programs in art and culture, 38 percent reported programs in education, and 27 percent reported programs on the environment.

The programs most frequently mentioned among congregations were programs for youth, counseling

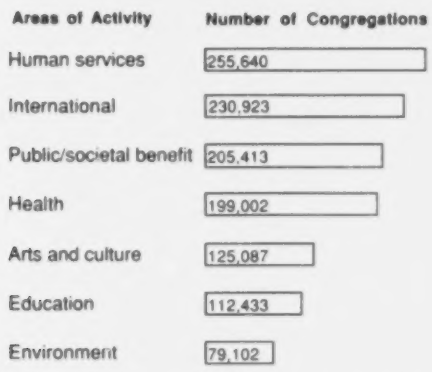
TABLE 3.1
DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT FOR OR SERVICES IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES, BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS

Areas of Activity	Number of Congregations	Percentage of Congregations
Human services	255,640	86.9
Day care (preschool)	90,763	30.8
Family counseling	232,960	79.2
Housing for senior citizens	54,755	18.6
Housing/shelter for homeless	95,380	32.4
Meal services	113,138	38.4
Recreation/camp programs/other youth programs	231,492	78.7
International	230,923	78.5
Support/promotion of education abroad	145,833	49.6
Support/promotion of health abroad	126,315	42.9
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	126,538	43.0
Refugee-related programs	104,305	35.4
Relief abroad	210,215	71.4
Public/societal benefit	205,413	69.8
Civil rights and social justice	123,463	42.0
Community development	134,061	45.6
Family planning/abortion	87,711	29.5
Right-to-life	137,832	46.8
Health	199,002	67.6
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	165,455	56.2
Programmatic assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	130,182	44.2
Public education on diseases	102,980	35.0
Arts and culture	125,087	42.5
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	125,087	42.5
Education	112,433	38.2
Elementary education	110,675	37.6
Secondary education	94,500	32.1
Environment	79,102	26.9
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	79,102	26.9

Note: Congregations could give multiple responses.

Question: We are interested in learning about your congregation's activities and programs. I am going to read a list of activities and programs; please indicate whether or not your congregation participates.

FIGURE 3.1
DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT FOR OR SERVICES IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES, BY NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS



Note: Congregations could give multiple responses.

for families, and programs for relief abroad. Nearly 8 out of 10 congregations reported that they participated in family counseling programs and programs for youth. Youth programs included recreational programs, camp programs, various girls and boys clubs —such as Girl Scouts or 4-H, or denominational or congregational youth groups. More than 7 out of 10 congregations reported that they participated in programs to provide relief abroad.

Many congregations reported that they participated in institutional care (56 percent), education abroad (50 percent), right-to-life programs (47 percent), and community development (46 percent). More than 40 percent of congregations reported assisting in programs providing services to people with mental and physical disabilities, crisis counseling, or hotlines; programs for promoting health and friendly relations abroad; programs for historic preservation; and civil rights and social justice programs.

More than 3 out of 10 congregations reported that they were involved in elementary or secondary education, day care, housing for the homeless, meal service provision, refugee-related programs, programs for public education on diseases such as AIDS, and family planning programs. A smaller proportion of congregations reported participating in programs to improve environmental quality (27 percent) or to provide housing for senior citizens (19 percent).

Table 3.2 groups congregations that reported selected activities by size. Except for family counseling, recreation programs for youth, and right-to-life programs, the proportion of congregations that reported support for or participation in activities generally increased with size of congregation. The activities in which size seems to make the most difference in a congregation's participation are meal service, day care, civil rights and social justice, international exchange programs, refugee-related programs, programs for historic preservation, health programs involving institutional care, and assistance in programs for the physically and mentally handicapped. In general, programs such as these are offered in increasing proportions by medium-size and large congregations rather than small congregations.

Table 3.3 groups congregations that reported participating in various activities by congregational orientation. Other than youth and family counseling programs in which 75 percent or more of congregations reported participating, congregational programs varied by self-reported orientation on the liberal-to-conservative scale. Liberal congregations were two-and-a-half times more likely to engage in programs to improve environmental quality than were very conservative congregations; more than twice as likely to have activities or programs in day care, civil rights and social justice, refugee-related programs, and family counseling; almost twice as likely to engage in activities or programs in housing or shelter for the homeless, housing for senior citizens, community development, international health assistance, historic preservation, and public education on diseases. This pattern had one exception—very conservative congregations (54 percent) were more likely than liberal congregations (42 percent) to engage in right-to-life activities.

A larger proportion of liberal congregations than moderate, conservative, or very conservative congregations also engaged in elementary and secondary education, meal services, promotion of friendly relations abroad, relief abroad, support of education abroad, institutional care, programmatic assistance for the mentally and physically handicapped, crisis counseling, and similar programs. For these programs, the differences in the proportion of congregations by orientation were not so great as in the activities enumerated earlier.

When congregations offering activities were grouped by location, the differences in offerings were not so great as they were by size of congregations, (see **table 3.4**). The only programs for which location seemed to make a difference were in meal services, day care, civil rights and social justice, and refugee-related programs. A much lower proportion of congregations in rural areas and small towns were likely to be engaged in those activities than congregations in small cities, suburbs, or large cities. Suburban congregations were more likely to engage in international exchange programs, relief abroad, programs for historic preservation, and programmatic assistance to the mentally and physically handicapped than were congregations in any other location.

Table 3.5 provides a summary tabulation of congregations reported to be supporting or providing services by major activity area and by size and orientation. Other than for religious activities and human services for which more than 9 out of 10 congregations

TABLE 3.2
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR OR SERVICES IN SELECTED AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION

Areas of Activity	Size of Congregation		
	Small	Medium	Large
Human services			
Day care (preschool)	18.1	27.0	41.7
Family counseling	73.8	79.2	82.1
Housing for senior citizens	12.9	17.2	23.4
Housing/shelter for homeless	22.2	31.7	38.6
Meal services	24.9	34.9	48.7
Recreation/camp programs/ other youth programs	67.7	80.9	82.1
International			
Support/promotion of education abroad	40.6	50.6	54.2
Support/promotion of health abroad	34.7	42.5	48.5
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	30.4	41.2	51.3
Refugee-related programs	23.5	32.4	46.4
Relief abroad	61.0	72.0	76.2
Public/societal benefit			
Civil rights and social justice	29.7	41.1	49.3
Community development	37.0	43.7	52.0
Family planning/abortion	22.9	30.0	31.4
Right-to-life	49.0	46.2	47.0
Health			
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	40.2	56.9	63.9
Program assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	30.7	40.8	54.7
Public education on diseases	26.9	32.5	42.7
Arts and culture			
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	32.0	39.1	52.1
Education			
Elementary education	30.1	33.1	46.7
Secondary education	26.7	30.3	37.3
Environment			
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	19.4	27.0	30.6

Note: Congregation could give multiple responses.

reported activities, participation in other activities affected by the size and orientation of congregations. Generally, the proportion of congregations that reported various activities increases by size and by liberal orientation.

The five major areas of activities in which congregations reported supporting or providing services were religious activities, human services, international programs, public or societal benefit programs, and health services or hospitals. More than 4 out of 10 congregations reported program activities in education and arts and cultural activities; fewer than 3 out of 10 reported programs or services related to the environment.

Whereas 75 percent of all congregations provided support for activities in international programs, those ranged from 61 percent of small congregations to 82 percent among large congregations. Similarly, 88 percent of liberal congregations reported such programs, compared with 62 percent of very conservative congregations. Those patterns persisted in all major activity areas, indicating that both size and orientation influenced the level of congregational activities. The difference in the proportion of congregations offering support and services by size and orientation is larger for health services or hospitals, education, arts and cultural activities, and the environment than for the other major activity areas.

The 1,353 congregations that responded to a more detailed questionnaire were given a longer list of activities, which also included religious activities (see

TABLE 3.3
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR OR SERVICES IN SELECTED AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BY ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Areas of Activity	Orientation			
	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Human services				
Day care (preschool)	42.0	36.0	29.0	18.0
Family counseling	86.0	76.0	79.0	80.0
Housing for senior citizens	27.0	20.0	17.0	13.0
Housing/shelter for homeless	46.0	36.0	29.0	25.0
Meal services	49.0	41.0	35.0	33.0
Recreation/camp programs/ other youth programs	81.0	79.0	79.0	75.0
International				
Support/promotion of education abroad	56.0	48.0	40.0	32.0
Support/promotion of health abroad	51.0	39.0	34.0	23.0
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	58.0	47.0	39.0	34.0
Refugee-related programs	87.0	75.0	69.0	59.0
Relief abroad	63.0	52.0	46.0	44.0
Public/societal benefit				
Civil rights and social justice	64.0	47.0	37.0	28.0
Community development	63.0	48.0	41.0	36.0
Family planning/abortion	39.0	27.0	29.0	26.0
Right-to-life	42.0	39.0	50.0	54.0
Health				
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	68.0	58.0	55.0	47.0
Program assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	57.0	44.0	42.0	39.0
Public education on diseases	54.0	37.0	30.0	28.0
Arts and culture				
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	55.0	49.0	39.0	31.0
Education				
Elementary education	46.0	38.0	36.0	33.0
Secondary education	38.0	32.0	31.0	30.0
Environment				
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	42.0	30.0	24.0	16.0

Note: Congregation could give multiple responses.

table 3.6). As expected, nearly all congregations reported that they provided religious services (98 percent) and religious education (99 percent).

The additional activities provided to congregations on the detailed questionnaire were in human services, international programs, public and societal benefit programs, and education. Generally, as shown in table 3.2, large congregations offered more activities than medium-size or small congregations.

Approximately one-quarter to one-third of all congregations reported supporting or offering day care for children and senior citizens, and after-school programs; services for battered women, abused children, and migrants or refugees; foster care; tutoring; adult literacy activities; and activities in support of international peace, economic development, and higher education and against nuclear war. A higher proportion of large congregations participated in such programs than medium-size or small congregations, but the differences were greater for programs in higher education, nuclear disarmament, and day care for the elderly.

Table 3.7 provides details on activities by congregational orientation. Liberal congregations were at least twice as likely as very conservative congregations to participate in or support programs for battered women, abused children, pregnant teenagers, migrants or refugees, and foster care. They were four times as likely to engage in programs for nuclear disarmament. Although a similar pattern occurred in day care programs for the elderly, tutoring, international peace

TABLE 3.4
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR SERVICES IN SELECTED AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BY LOCATION OF CONGREGATION

Areas of Activity	Location of Congregation				
	Large City	Small City	Town	Suburb	Rural
Human services					
Day care (preschool)	37.1	32.6	27.0	34.3	22.1
Family counseling	78.9	83.4	75.4	82.3	75.6
Housing for senior citizens	18.9	18.0	18.3	19.6	19.1
Housing/shelter for homeless	34.1	35.9	28.7	35.4	26.2
Meal services	43.4	40.5	36.3	39.0	31.1
Recreation/camp programs/ other youth programs	71.4	79.3	81.2	79.7	79.2
International					
Support/promotion of education abroad	47.5	49.9	48.3	53.8	48.5
Support/promotion of health abroad	41.3	42.4	42.8	45.5	42.1
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	39.7	45.0	40.9	49.3	39.1
Refugee-related programs	37.6	35.5	32.0	44.5	27.8
Relief abroad	67.8	70.6	73.6	74.8	69.7
Public/societal benefit					
Civil rights and social justice	47.1	42.0	38.1	46.4	35.8
Community development	48.2	42.6	42.3	49.7	47.0
Family planning/abortion	28.9	30.1	28.2	34.6	24.1
Right-to-life	47.3	49.4	41.6	51.5	46.1
Health					
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	54.3	55.1	57.4	58.6	55.0
Program assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	41.8	44.0	43.5	50.9	40.2
Public education on diseases	38.4	34.8	30.1	38.9	34.6
Arts and culture					
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	40.1	43.5	41.9	47.1	38.2
Education					
Elementary education	43.5	38.2	33.2	38.9	35.4
Secondary education	35.1	33.7	29.5	29.9	34.2
Environment					
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	28.5	24.8	27.3	28.0	27.5

Note: Congregation could give multiple responses.

TABLE 3.5
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR SERVICES IN MAJOR ACTIVITY AREAS, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Major Activity Areas	All	Size of Congregation[a]			Orientation[a]			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Total	100.0	19.0	41.8	34.5	14.3	25.6	39.5	17.3
Religious ministry/ education	99.3	98.5	99.9	98.9	100.0	99.4	99.3	98.5
Human services/welfare	93.0	88.0	93.1	95.3	96.5	93.1	92.8	91.1
International programs	75.0	60.7	76.0	81.5	88.1	77.7	73.7	61.8
Public/societal benefit	71.8	64.4	71.3	77.4	85.7	72.7	68.5	67.1
Health	64.2	47.6	62.8	74.2	80.2	65.3	60.7	55.3
Education	45.0	45.7	40.2	56.1	53.5	45.9	43.4	38.0
Arts and culture	43.7	28.9	42.0	53.0	56.1	50.0	41.5	29.1
Environment	29.0	20.8	28.7	33.4	44.6	33.8	25.1	16.7

Note: Data are from 1,353 congregatiions that respond to a more detailed questionnaire.

[a]Excludes 4.7 percent of congregations that gave a "don't know" or "no answer" for size and 3.3 percent of congregations that did not report their orientation.

TABLE 3.6

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR SERVICES IN MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY AND DETAILED ACTIVITIES IN EACH AREA BY SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP

Areas of Activity	All	Small	Medium	Large
Percentage Among All Congregations[a]	100.0	19.0	41.8	34.5
Religious ministry/education	99.3	98.5	99.9	98.9
Religious education (Sunday school, adult classes, etc.)	98.8	97.0	99.9	98.8
Worship services, marriages, funerals, special ministries, evangelical activities	97.8	97.8	97.9	97.6
Human services/welfare	93.0	88.0	93.1	95.3
After-school programs	29.9	26.3	26.5	35.0
Battered women programs	24.7	21.1	22.0	29.9
Child abuse programs	26.5	22.1	24.8	31.2
Day care (elderly) or other senior citizen programs	27.8	19.4	23.6	37.2
Day care (preschool)	32.8	20.5	27.7	44.8
Family counseling	78.7	73.3	76.8	83.9
Foster care/parenthood counseling	23.3	17.3	22.1	28.4
Housing for senior citizens	19.8	14.2	16.9	26.2
Housing/shelter for homeless	34.2	24.6	31.2	43.1
Meal services	39.8	25.8	35.6	51.2
Migrant/refugee programs	23.9	16.9	21.3	31.6
Recreation/camp programs/ other youth programs	78.1	65.5	81.4	81.1
Teenage pregnancy programs	28.8	23.3	28.1	32.1
Tutoring	26.4	19.9	22.8	34.2
International	75.0	60.8	76.0	81.5
Promotion/support of education abroad	46.4	33.7	49.3	50.2
Promotion/support of health abroad	41.5	31.0	42.7	45.8
Peace, security, economic development, and technical assistance	34.6	25.3	33.4	40.5
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	41.1	28.3	39.6	49.7
Refugee related programs	34.0	20.9	31.1	45.1
Relief abroad	69.2	55.0	69.6	75.9
Public/societal benefit	71.8	64.4	71.3	77.4
Civil rights and social justice	43.1	30.7	42.2	51.2
Community development	46.3	36.2	44.7	54.0
Family planning/abortion	32.1	22.8	31.5	37.2
Right-to-life	48.7	49.2	48.0	49.2
Nuclear war/disarmament	32.4	17.6	31.4	41.4
Health	64.2	47.6	62.8	74.2
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	53.2	37.3	51.2	63.4
Programmatic assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	42.5	27.8	39.9	53.0
Public education about diseases	35.0	26.6	32.8	42.3
Education	45.0	34.7	40.2	56.1
Adult basic/literacy education	31.2	24.8	29.5	35.8
Elementary education	39.6	31.4	34.9	49.5
Higher education	29.9	23.7	30.1	33.8
Secondary education	34.4	28.1	32.1	40.5
Arts and culture	43.7	28.9	42.0	53.0
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	43.7	28.9	42.0	53.0
Environment	29.1	20.8	28.7	33.4
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	29.1	20.8	28.7	33.4

Note: Data are based on responses from the 1,353 congregations that answered a more detailed set of questions. These figures are less reliable than are responses from the whole sample. Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Congregations could give multiple responses.

[a]Excludes the 3.3 percent of congregations that gave a "don't know" or "no answer" for size.

TABLE 3.7

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING SUPPORT FOR SERVICES AMONG MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY AND DETAILED ACTIVITIES IN EACH AREA BY ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

	Orientation				
Areas of Activity	All	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Percentage Among All Congregations[a]	100.0	14.3	25.6	39.5	17.3
Religious ministry/education	99.3	100.0	99.4	99.3	98.5
Religious education (Sunday school, adult classes, etc.)	98.8	100.0	99.2	98.9	97.7
Worship services, marriages, funerals, special ministries, evangelical activities	97.8	99.6	97.9	97.4	96.5
Human services/welfare	93.0	96.5	93.1	92.8	91.1
After-school programs	29.9	41.1	31.6	28.6	21.4
Battered women programs	24.7	35.9	25.1	23.0	16.9
Child abuse programs	26.5	39.7	24.8	25.3	20.1
Day care (elderly) or other senior citizen programs	27.8	30.7	32.8	27.4	17.5
Day care (preschool)	32.8	46.1	36.1	31.3	17.5
Family counseling	78.7	85.3	75.5	78.4	78.5
Foster care/parenting	23.3	34.6	20.8	22.8	17.0
Housing for senior citizens	19.8	30.4	19.9	17.6	14.0
Housing/shelter for homeless	34.2	47.3	36.0	31.2	26.3
Meal services	39.8	49.7	43.3	37.0	32.9
Migrant/refugee programs	23.9	33.6	23.9	23.222.2	
Tutoring	26.4	35.0	27.8	23.6	22.5
International	75.0	88.1	77.7	73.7	61.8
Support/promotion of education abroad	46.4	61.5	47.9	42.3	39.8
Support/promotion of health abroad	41.5	54.8	45.8	37.1	33.7
Peace, security, economic development, and technical assistance	34.6	49.8	39.1	29.8	25.5
Promotion of friendly relations including exchange programs	41.1	56.6	46.1	35.9	31.3
Refugee related programs	34.0	51.8	34.8	32.8	21.2
Relief abroad	69.2	83.8	71.3	67.9	55.8
Public/societal benefits	71.8	85.7	72.7	68.5	67.1
Civil rights and social justice	43.1	65.0	47.2	38.1	30.1
Community development	46.3	62.5	51.9	41.0	34.4
Family planning/abortion	32.1	43.5	32.2	29.6	27.2
Right-to-life	48.7	43.1	41.3	53.1	55.7
Nuclear war/disarmament	32.4	61.8	40.2	23.9	14.5
Health	64.2	80.2	65.4	60.7	55.4
Institutional care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices)	53.2	63.8	56.4	52.7	39.7
Programmatic assistance for mentally retarded and physically disabled persons, crisis counseling hotlines, etc.	42.5	55.4	41.9	40.1	37.9
Public education about diseases	35.0	55.8	39.1	28.8	24.7
Education	45.0	53.5	45.9	43.5	38.0
Adult basic/literacy education	31.2	38.8	33.1	29.0	26.4
Elementary education	39.6	47.0	40.0	38.7	32.9
Higher education	29.9	38.5	29.4	28.4	24.8
Secondary education	34.4	40.8	34.1	32.9	31.3
Arts and culture	43.7	56.1	50.0	41.5	29.1
Programs for historic preservation, choral singing (other than church choir), instrumental groups, dance groups, theater, etc.	43.7	56.1	50.0	41.5	29.1
Environment	29.1	44.6	33.8	25.1	16.7
Improvement of environmental quality, beautification of urban areas, etc.	29.1	44.6	33.8	25.1	16.7

Note: See note on table 3.6.

[a]Excludes the 3.3 percent of congregations that gave a "don't know" or "no answer" for orientation.

and economic development, adult education, and higher education, the differences were not so great. Generally, the proportion of congregations that participated in various programs increased by congregational orientation from very conservative to liberal.

To determine the scope of congregational involvement in a wide array of activities, congregations were grouped according to the number of activities they participated in or supported in each major activity area by size and orientation of congregation, as shown in **table 3.8.** More than 9 out of 10 congregations were involved in human services, and more than 7 out of 10 congregations were involved in international activities, and public/societal benefit activities. Within those groups, over 4 out of 10 congregations were involved in more than five separate human services programs; almost 3 out of 10 were involved in five or more international programs, and 2 out 10 were involved in two or more activities related to community and social justice. Of the more than 6 out of 10 congregations involved in health services, one-quarter reported participating in three health programs. To a lesser extent, congregations reported participating in education programs, although nearly one-quarter of congregations reported participating in four educational programs. As noted earlier, the proportion of congregations that reported more activities increased by size of congregation and by orientation from very conservative to liberal. These findings indicate that most congregations are engaged in multiple activities ranging from family counseling to relief abroad.

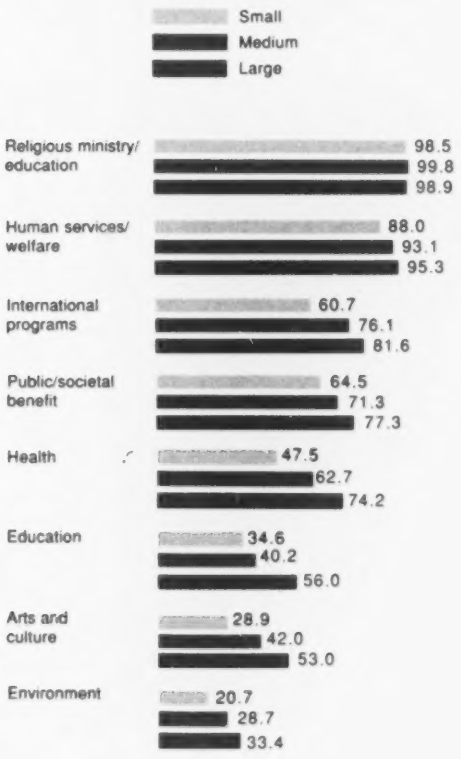
TABLE 3.8
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING FREQUENCY OF DETAILED ACTIVITIES AMONG MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BY CONGREGATIONAL SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP OR ORIENTATION

Areas of Activity	Total	Size of Congregation[a]			Orientation[a]			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Religious ministry/ education	99.3	98.5	99.8	98.9	100.0	99.4	99.3	98.5
Both activities	97.3	96.2	97.9	97.4	99.6	97.7	97.0	95.7
1 activity	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.5	0.4	1.7	2.3	2.8
Human services/welfare	93.0	88.0	93.1	95.3	96.5	93.1	92.8	91.1
5 activities or more	41.3	26.6	35.3	54.6	53.1	44.8	38.9	29.4
4 activities	9.6	9.0	11.3	8.4	10.1	9.6	8.9	11.1
3 activities	13.5	11.9	15.0	13.8	12.6	12.9	14.4	14.1
2 activities	17.6	23.3	19.3	12.8	12.6	15.0	19.5	22.6
1 activity	11.0	17.2	12.2	5.7	8.1	10.8	11.1	13.9
International programs	75.0	60.7	76.1	81.6	88.1	77.7	73.7	61.7
5 activities or more	27.7	18.7	27.1	33.3	43.0	30.3	24.9	18.9
4 activities	8.7	5.7	9.4	9.6	10.6	8.7	7.7	8.3
3 activities	11.4	8.9	10.9	13.4	10.2	13.5	10.2	10.5
2 activities	12.0	9.2	13.8	11.1	14.4	11.6	11.8	9.5
1 activity	15.2	18.2	14.9	14.2	9.9	13.6	19.1	14.5
Public/societal benefit	71.8	64.5	71.3	77.3	85.7	72.7	68.5	67.0
5 activities or more	20.6	12.4	17.7	23.2	27.9	22.2	16.2	11.2
4 activities	14.9	2.4	4.9	7.7	8.2	5.0	5.7	3.5
3 activities	12.0	10.8	12.9	12.4	15.9	11.8	11.4	10.8
2 activities	5.4	13.7	15.3	14.9	22.3	12.7	12.5	17.7
1 activity	18.9	25.2	20.5	19.1	11.4	21.0	22.7	23.8
Health	64.0	47.5	62.7	74.2	80.2	65.3	60.7	55.3
3 activities	25.3	17.5	22.3	32.9	37.8	28.9	22.1	17.1
2 activities	15.7	9.0	16.5	18.7	19.2	14.2	16.5	12.7
1 activity	23.0	21.0	23.9	22.6	23.2	22.2	22.1	25.5
Education	45.0	34.6	40.2	56.0	53.5	45.9	43.4	38.0
4 activities	24.0	20.7	23.6	26.3	31.6	24.6	22.6	19.6
3 activities	5.8	2.9	4.9	8.3	5.0	6.1	4.8	6.5
2 activities	6.5	5.2	5.6	7.9	6.6	4.8	8.0	5.5
1 activity	8.7	5.8	6.1	13.5	10.3	10.4	8.0	6.4
Arts and culture	43.7	28.9	42.0	53.0	56.1	50.0	41.5	29.1
Environment	29.0	20.7	28.7	33.4	44.6	33.8	25.1	16.7

Note: See note for table 3.6

[a]Excludes 3.3 percent of congregations that gave a "don't know" or "no answer" for size and 3.3 percent of congregations that did not report their orientation.

FIGURE 3.2
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING FREQUENCY OF DETAILED ACTIVITIES AMONG MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BY CONGREGATIONAL SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP



Furthermore, the orientation of congregations affects the overall kinds of activities and the level of involvement of congregations, as well as the type and variety of programs in which they participate.

The Use of Congregational Facilities

Respondents were asked how many days per week their congregational facilities were used or available for use for religious services, for use by other groups within their congregation, or for use by groups outside their congregation. Tables 3.9, 3.10, and 3.11 show the responses to these questions. **Table 3.9** shows that 56 percent of congregations reported that their congregational facilities were used for religious services one, two, or three days per week. Some 36 percent reported that congregational facilities were used or available for religious services seven days per week.

Use of facilities varied with the size of the congregation. More small congregations (65 percent) reported that facilities were available for religious services only one, two, or three days per week than large congregations (47 percent). Larger congregations were far more likely to report that their facilities were available for religious services every day (45 percent) than small congregations (27 percent). There were no major differences in the use of facilities by congregational orientation.

The responses about the availability of congregational facilities for groups within their congregations were more varied than for religious services, as shown in **table 3.10.** While 41 percent of congregations reported that their facilities were available to congregational groups seven days per week, another 20 percent reported that their facilities were available one or two days per week, and 30 percent responded that their facilities were available between three and six days per week. Only 6 percent of congregations reported that their facilities were not available for use by groups within their congregation.

TABLE 3.9
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

		Size			Orientation			
Days Used Per Week	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
1	15.3	12.7	17.2	15.4	20.2	20.9	13.6	7.5
2	27.3	34.3	29.4	21.6	23.4	23.3	29.5	31.8
3	13.2	18.2	14.3	10.1	8.8	10.0	15.9	15.9
4	3.8	4.3	4.4	2.8	4.4	3.0	3.4	5.4
5	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.5	0.0	0.7	1.9	1.8
6	1.6	0.3	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.8
7	35.7	27.0	30.7	45.0	39.7	39.0	32.5	34.5
Don't know/ no answer	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.4
Total	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many days of the week are the congregational facilities used or available for use for religious services?

FIGURE 3.3
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FIGURE 3.4
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED BY GROUPS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Small congregations were more likely to report (15 percent) that their facilities were not open at all to groups within the congregation than were large congregations (2 percent). Small groups were also more likely to report (38 percent) that their facilities were available to those groups only one, two, or three days per week than large congregations (15 percent). A majority of large congregations (55 percent) reported that their facilities were available every day, compared with 27 percent of small congregations.

There were no major differences in the use of facilities by groups in the congregation by orientation, except that liberal congregations (2 percent) were less likely to report that their facilities were not available than were very conservative congregations (11 percent). Liberal congregations were also more likely to report that their facilities were available seven days per week (47 percent) than were very conservative congregations (37 percent).

More than one-third of congregations (35 percent) reported that their facilities were not available to outside groups, as shown in **table 3.11.** Approximately 30 percent of congregations reported that those facilities were available to outside groups one, two, or three days per week, and 13 percent reported that they were available every day.

Small congregations were far more likely to report that their facilities were not available to outside groups (54 percent) than were large congregations (22 percent). Similarly, large congregations were more likely to report the availability of their facilities every day to such groups (18 percent) than were small congregations (6 percent). Liberal congregations were far less likely to report that their facilities were not available for use by outside groups (20 percent) than very conservative congregations (57 percent). Accordingly, they were also more likely to report that their facilities were available every day (19 pecent) than very

TABLE 3.10
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED WITHIN THE CONGREGATION, BY CONGREGATIONAL SIZE AND ORIENTATION

		Size			Orientation			
Days Used Per Week	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	6.1	15.2	5.1	1.8	2.0	4.5	6.2	10.6
1	8.5	15.5	10.6	2.5	6.1	4.8	10.7	11.5
2	11.6	16.6	14.1	6.4	11.9	11.5	10.1	15.4
3	7.7	5.5	9.7	6.4	8.4	8.1	7.8	5.0
4	6.5	3.2	7.3	7.8	9.2	5.9	7.2	4.1
5	9.0	5.9	9.4	10.8	7.1	8.4	9.5	10.4
6	6.6	6.0	6.4	7.1	5.9	7.7	7.4	4.2
7	41.4	27.1	35.4	55.4	46.6	46.4	38.5	37.1
Don't know/ no answer	2.6	5.0	1.7	1.8	2.9	2.7	2.6	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many days of the week are the congregational facilities used or available for use to groups within the congregation?

TABLE 3.11
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED BY GROUPS OUTSIDE THE CONGREGATION, BY CONGREGATIONAL SIZE AND ORIENTATION

Days Used Per Week	Total	Size			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	34.9	54.4	36.5	21.6	19.8	22.4	37.6	57.4
1	13.7	13.1	15.5	13.2	12.5	12.3	16.2	13.1
2	9.3	7.4	9.4	10.8	11.1	10.6	8.2	8.0
3	6.7	3.4	5.4	10.1	7.2	10.8	6.1	1.5
4	3.7	1.0	3.6	5.4	5.6	4.8	3.5	1.9
5	8.8	5.3	8.1	11.2	12.4	11.7	7.4	3.9
6	5.6	2.7	5.8	7.0	7.4	7.6	4.7	3.8
7	13.1	6.4	11.6	17.9	19.3	16.4	11.5	6.7
Don't know/ no answer	4.3	6.5	4.3	3.0	4.9	3.5	4.9	3.7
Total	100.1	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1

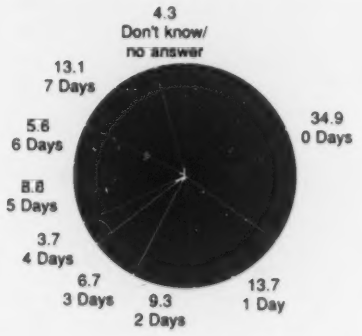
Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many days of the week are the congregational facilities used or available for use to groups outside the congregation?

conservative congregations (7 percent).

In summary, all congregations reported that their facilities were available for religious services for some period of time every week; over 9 out of 10 congregations reported that their facilities were available to groups within the congregations, and 6 out of 10 congregations reported that their facilities were available for use by outside groups. Although more availability of facilities is provided by large or liberal congregations, these findings show that congregations provide enormous opportunities for meetings and activities both within their congregations and for groups in the community as well.

FIGURE 3.5
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK THAT CONGREGATIONAL FACILITIES ARE USED BY GROUPS OUTSIDE THE CONGREGATION



In-kind Support Provided by Congregations

Respondents were asked whether their congregations provided in-kind support such as clothing, food, or housing to human services programs operated by religious or other community groups. About 60 percent of congregations reported that they did provide such support, 10 percent responded that they did not; and 30 percent responded that they did not know or gave no answer, as shown in **table 3.12.**

Small congregations were much more likely to report that they did not provide in-kind support (23 percent) than large congregations (5 percent). Sixty-two percent of large congregations reported providing such support, compared with 51 percent of small congregations. Liberal, moderate, and conservative congregations were more likely to report providing in-kind support (69 percent, 64 percent, and 60 percent, respectively) than were very conservative congregations (49 percent). Very conservative congregations were also likely to report that they did not provide in-kind support (21 percent), than conservative (10 percent), moderate (5 percent), or liberal (5 percent) congregations.

The Effect of Public Policy Changes on Congregations and Their Families

Congregational representatives were asked how recent changes in public policy relating to health services, social welfare, economics, and education affected their members or their surrounding communities. **Table 3.13** provides responses of congregations about the effects of public policy on their members by size and orientation. About 35 percent of all congregations did not know or could not provide an answer to this question. The largest group of congre-

TABLE 3.12

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING IN-KIND SUPPORT, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Provides In-Kind Support	Total	Size			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Yes	59.9	51.6	62.4	61.8	69.2	64.1	59.6	49.0
No	10.2	23.0	9.2	5.0	4.7	4.9	10.4	20.7
Don't know/ no answer	29.9	25.4	28.4	33.2	26.1	30.9	30.0	30.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: Does your congregation provide non-financial or in-kind support, like food, clothing, housing, etc., to human services programs operated by denominational or community groups?

FIGURE 3.6

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING IN-KIND SUPPORT, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

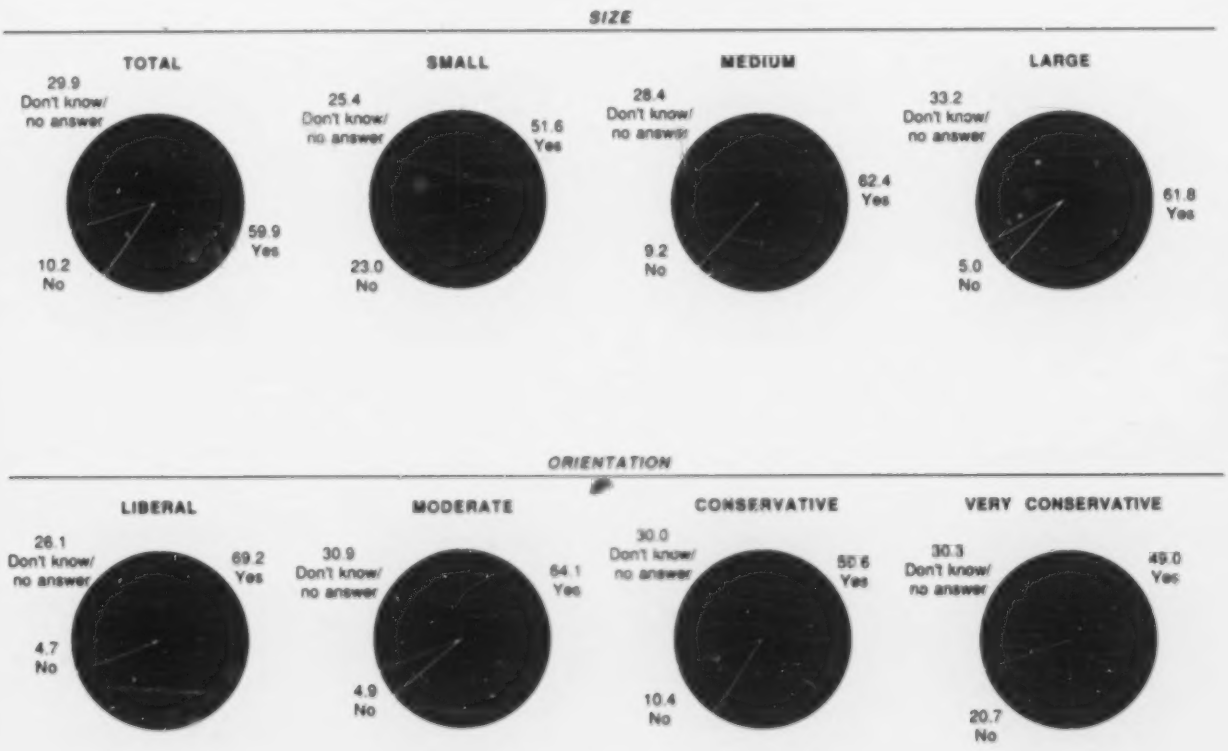


TABLE 3.13
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING THE EFFECT OF PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES ON THEIR MEMBERS, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

		Size			Orientation			
Effect	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Considerably improved their well-being	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.3	0.4	1.3	1.0	1.2
Moderately improved their well-being	8.3	8.2	6.3	10.1	8.9	8.4	6.8	10.4
Had little or no effect	39.1	43.3	40.7	36.2	32.5	37.4	42.9	39.8
Moderately impaired their well-being	13.3	11.6	14.6	13.2	20.9	17.1	10.9	8.1
Considerably impaired their well-being	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.7	7.1	2.8	3.3	1.3
Don't know/no answer	34.7	32.5	34.2	35.4	30.1	33.0	35.0	39.2
Total	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: Which of these statements best describes the effect that recent changes in public policy, such as in health and social welfare programs (human services) and in education and economic matters have had on members of your congregation?

gations (39 percent) reported that they thought changes in public policy had had little or no effect on their members. Smaller congregations (43 percent) were more likely to give this assessment than were large congregations (36 percent). Conservative congregations (43 percent) were most likely to report that public policy changes had had no effect, compared with liberal congregations (33 percent). Congregations as a whole were slightly more likely to report that recent public policy changes had moderately or considerably impaired the well-being of their members (17 percent) than to report that these policy changes had considerably or moderately improved the well-being of their members (10 pecent). There were no major differences by orientation of congregations.

When congregations were grouped according to their location **(table 3.14),** those suburbs (43 percent) were most likely to respond that recent public policy changes had no impact on their members and those in small cities (36 percent) were least likely. Although there was little difference among the proportion of congregations reporting that those changes had improved the well-being of their members, approximately 20 percent of congregations in towns and small cities reported that thost changes had moderately or considerably impaired the well-being of their members, compared with 14 to 15 percent of those in other locations.

Table 3.15 provides the responses of congregational representatives relating to their assessment of the impact of recent public policy changes in their communities. Whereas 39 percent of all congregations reported that changes in public policy had had no impact on their members (table 3.14 above), only 28 percent reported those changes had had no effect on their communities. About 24 percent of all congregations reported that such policy changes had moderately or considerably impaired the well-being of the

TABLE 3.14
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING THE EFFECT OF PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES ON THEIR MEMBERS, BY LOCATION OF CONGREGATION

		Location				
Effect	Total	Large City	Small City	Town	Suburban Area	Rural Area
Considerably improved their well-being	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.7	2.2
Moderately improved their well-being	8.3	7.4	7.7	9.1	9.3	7.8
Had little or no effect	39.1	37.2	35.5	39.6	43.4	40.8
Moderately impaired their well-being	13.3	12.1	14.9	15.2	11.6	10.8
Considerably impaired their well-being	3.5	2.5	4.3	4.5	2.2	2.7
Don't know/no answer	34.7	40.1	36.3	30.4	32.8	35.8
Total	100.1	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

communities, compared with 11 percent that reported that those changes had led to considerable or moderate improvement. About 38 percent of all congregations did not know or could not answer this question.

When congregations were grouped by location **(table 3.16)**, a similar pattern emerged. About 24 percent of all congregations reported that those changes had impaired the well-being of their communities compared with 11 percent reporting improved community well-being. Congregations in large and small cities were less likely to report that public policy changes had had no effect (23 percent and 24 percent, respectively) than those in towns (31 percent), or suburbs (33 percent). Congregations in large and small cities were more likely to report that public policy changes had moderately or considerably impaired the well-being of their communities (26 percent and 27 percent, respectively) than those in suburbs (20 percent), or rural areas (21 percent).

Generally, a majority of congregations either did not know or thought that public policy changes had had little effect on members and communities. Opinions varied far more by orientation than by size or location, suggesting that these various orientations led these congregations to assess the impact of public policy changes on their members and communities differently.

TABLE 3.15
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING THE EFFECT OF PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES ON THEIR COMMUNITIES, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

		Size			Orientation			
Effect	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Considerably improved their well-being	1.1	0.8	0.6	1.5	0.4	1.4	0.8	2.0
Moderately improved their well-being	9.4	10.4	8.8	9.9	8.5	9.0	8.9	12.5
Had little or no effect	27.8	30.3	28.1	26.8	19.2	26.9	32.2	27.1
Moderately impaired their well-being	16.9	15.3	18.8	15.3	24.0	18.1	15.2	15.0
Considerably impaired their well-being	7.2	5.8	7.2	8.1	14.5	7.8	5.6	3.0
Don't know/no answer	37.6	37.4	36.5	38.4	33.5	36.9	37.4	40.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	99.9

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How have such changes in public policy affected people in the community where your congregation is located?

TABLE 3.16
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING THE EFFECT OF PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES ON THEIR COMMUNITIES, BY LOCATION OF CONGREGATION

		Location				
Effect	Total	Large City	Small City	Town	Suburban Area	Rural Area
Considerably improved their well-being	1.1	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.3
Moderately improved their well-being	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.2	11.0	8.0
Had little or no effect	27.8	22.7	23.6	30.9	33.1	29.4
Moderately impaired their well-being	16.9	17.0	16.5	18.0	15.1	16.9
Considerably impaired their well-being	7.2	8.6	10.3	6.9	5.2	3.8
Don't know/no answer	37.6	41.2	39.6	33.6	35.2	39.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

CHAPTER 4
The Resources of Congregations: People and Finances

Congregations engage in numerous activities that translate religious beliefs into community service. In the last section, findings were presented relating to the breadth of activities in which congregations participated. This chapter provides the findings relating to the resources of congregations: the number and type of employees (both paid and volunteer); the amount and type of donations received; the percentage of time and resources devoted to their various program activities; and their total revenues and expenditures.

Paid and Volunteer Clergy

Congregations were asked to report the number of paid clergy they employed and the number of volunteer clergy that served their congregations. **Table 4.1** provides information about the number of paid clergy by size and orientation of congregation. Only a small proportion of congregations reported that they had no paid clergy: 7 percent of small, 1 percent of medium-size, and less than 1 percent of large congregations, or 2 percent of all congregations.

Thirty-eight percent of congregations reported that they had one paid member of clergy. By size of congregation, 48 percent of small, and 42 percent of medium-size reported having one paid member of clergy on their staff. Only 26 percent of large congregations reported having one paid member of clergy, 21 percent reported two paid clergy, and 17 percent reported three or more paid clergy. Nearly 39 percent of congregations provided no answer to this question.

There did not seem to be major differences in the number of paid clergy by orientation of congregation. At least half of moderate, conservative, and very conservative congregations reported employing one or two paid clergy compared to 44 percent of liberal congregations, but the response from liberal congregations may not be as accurate, since nearly half of these congregations provided no answer to this question. Generally, the number of employed clergy seemed to be more related to the size of congregation rather than to orientation.

Table 4.2 provides information on volunteer clergy by size and orientation. Nearly four out of ten congregations (39 percent) reported no volunteer clergy. There was little variation in this response by size of congregation, except that larger congregations were slightly more likely to report that they had no volunteer clergy (41 percent) than medium-size (39 percent) or small (37 percent) congregations. Nine percent of congregations reported that they had one volunteer member of clergy, 9 percent reported two or three volunteer clergy and 7 percent reported four or more volunteer clergy. Over one-third (36 percent) of congregations gave no answer to this question. There was almost no difference in the reported use of volunteer clergy by orientation of congregation.

When total paid and volunteer clergy were weighted by size of congregation to the total universe of congregations, it is estimated that there were a total of 688,000 paid and volunteer clergy at 287,000 congregations, as shown in **table 4.3.** Approximately 37 percent (253,000) of total clergy were volunteers and

TABLE 4.1
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF PAID CLERGY BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

		Size of Congregation			Orientation			
Number of Clergy	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	2.2	6.8	1.1	0.6	3.1	1.5	1.5	3.1
1	37.6	48.4	42.2	25.6	32.6	39.1	37.0	40.2
2	13.1	3.2	10.9	20.6	11.8	11.4	15.7	11.1
3	5.0	0.4	3.8	9.7	0.7	6.9	5.0	4.9
4	1.6	—	0.8	3.4	1.2	2.4	1.4	1.3
5 or more	1.6	0.2	0.3	3.5	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.6
Don't know/ no answer	38.9	41.0	40.9	36.6	48.8	37.4	38.1	36.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.
— Too few responses to be reliable.
Question: How many paid clergy does your congregation have?

TABLE 4.2
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER CLERGY BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Number of Volunteer Clergy	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	39.1	37.3	38.8	41.2	36.4	38.5	39.7	39.8
1	9.0	8.4	9.3	9.9	9.4	9.8	9.8	5.1
2	5.8	6.1	5.2	6.9	8.0	3.4	6.7	5.9
3	3.1	2.9	3.3	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.5	5.5
4 or more	6.7	8.8	6.1	6.0	6.2	7.1	5.2	8.8
Don't know/ no answer	36.3	36.6	37.3	34.9	36.7	39.2	36.2	34.8
Total	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.1	99.9

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many volunteer clergy does your congregation have?

TABLE 4.3
NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS AND CLERGY (PAID OR VOLUNTEER) BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(Of the 294,271 congregations in the universe, 286,811 are identified by size of congregation)

Size of Congregation	Congregations (Number)	Clergy		
		Total (Number)	Paid (Number)	Volunteer (Number)
Total	286,811*	688,230	435,474	252,756
Small	60,300	119,506	58,256	61,250
Medium	123,832	278,672	172,022	106,650
Large	102,679	290,052	205,196	84,856

*Total number of congregations in the universe established for this survey, 294,271, is 2.6 percent greater than the number of congregations identified by size, 286,811. Assuming that the congregations not identified by size had a similar distribution of paid and volunteer clergy as congregations identified by size, the overall estimate is 706,124 clergy persons (688,230 × 1.026).

the other 63 percent (435,000) were paid. A higher proportion of total clergy were volunteers at small congregations (51 percent) than medium-size (38 percent) or large (29 percent) congregations. Large congregations had an average of three volunteer and paid clergy compared to slightly more than two clergy at medium-size congregations, and just two clergy at small congregations. On average, small congregations had about one paid clergy per congregation, medium-size congregations had slightly more than one paid clergy, and large congregations had approximately two paid clergy per congregation.

Full- and Part-time Paid Employees

Congregations were asked a series of questions to determine how many full-time, part-time, and nominally paid employees other than clergy were on their staff. **Table 4.4** shows that 34 percent of total congregations reported that they had no full-time paid employees. Small congregations were far more likely to report no full-time paid employees (51 percent) than medium-size (41 percent) or large (16 percent) congregations. Twenty percent of congregations reported that they had one or two full-time employees. Large congregations were more likely to report one or two employees (31 percent) than medium-size (16 percent) or small (6 percent) congregations. For the most part, only large congregations reported having three or more full-time employees (35 percent). While 31 percent of total congregations did not answer this question, a higher proportion of small (39 percent) and medium-size (38 percent) gave no answer than large (18 percent) congregations. There was little difference in the number of paid employees by orientation of congregation.

While one-third of total congregations reported no full-time paid employees, as shown in Table 4.4, only 19 percent reported that they had no part-time paid employees, as shown in **table 4.5.** Again, small congregations were most likely to report no part-time employees (40 percent) than medium-size (19 percent) or large (8 percent) congregations.

Thirty-seven percent of congregations reported that

TABLE 4.4
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF PAID FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN CLERGY BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Number of Full-Time Employees	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	33.8	51.4	41.2	15.8	34.9	29.5	34.6	35.9
1	12.4	5.1	11.0	18.1	12.6	14.5	10.8	13.2
2	7.2	0.6	5.3	13.0	8.2	8.5	7.0	4.9
3	3.8	0.8	1.6	8.1	4.3	3.8	2.5	5.6
4 or more	12.1	3.3	3.3	26.9	13.0	13.3	11.8	9.7
Don't know/ no answer	30.6	38.8	37.6	18.2	27.0	30.5	33.3	30.7
Total	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many paid full-time employees other than clergy does your congregation have?

TABLE 4.5
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF PAID PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN CLERGY BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Number of Part-Time Employees	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	19.2	39.6	18.3	8.1	16.5	13.4	18.1	30.6
1	18.8	17.3	22.8	15.2	20.8	20.6	18.8	16.1
2	18.4	6.8	23.4	20.8	19.1	19.3	21.0	13.0
3	9.4	1.4	9.4	13.3	7.0	10.3	10.8	7.5
4 or more	17.4	2.1	9.4	33.8	23.8	21.3	14.5	10.1
Don't know/ no answer	16.8	32.8	16.7	8.7	12.9	14.8	16.9	22.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.2

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many paid part-time employees other than clergy does your congregation have?

they had one or two part-time paid employees. Nearly half of medium-size congregations (46 percent), more than one-third of large (36 percent), and nearly one-quarter of small (24 percent) congregations reported one or two part-time paid employees. While only 3 percent of small congregations reported three or more paid part-time employees, 19 percent of medium-size and 47 percent of large congregations did so. Nearly 17 percent of congregations did not answer the question, although small congregations (33 percent) were more likely not to provide answers than medium-size (16 percent) or large (9 percent) congregations.

There was little difference in the proportion of congregations that reported the number of part-time paid employees among liberal, moderate, and conservative congregations. However, a higher proportion of very conservative congregations (31 percent) reported that they had no part-time employees compared to under 20 percent of other congregations by orientation. A smaller proportion of these very conservative congregations also reported from one to four or more part-time employees than congregations of other orientations.

Congregations were also asked if they engaged nominally paid employees (employees who worked for a small stipend). Three out of ten congregations reported no nominally paid employees, as shown in **table 4.6.** A much larger proportion of smaller congregations (42 percent) reported no nominally paid employees than medium-size (30 percent) or large (22 percent) congregations.

Twenty-eight percent of total congregations reported engaging one or two nominally paid employees, although this percentage varied by size. Only 17 percent of small congregations reported one or two nominally paid employees compared with 30 percent of medium-size and 33 percent of large congregations. While less than 3 percent of small congregations reported three or more nominally paid employees, 12 percent of medium-size, and 22 percent of large congregations reported engaging three or more nominally

TABLE 4.6
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF NOMINALLY PAID EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN CLERGY BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Number of Nominally Paid Employees	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	29.5	42.0	29.8	22.0	26.4	24.2	29.2	38.0
1	16.0	10.7	17.4	17.2	17.0	18.3	14.9	13.9
2	12.4	6.2	12.8	15.5	15.8	15.8	11.9	6.6
3	6.3	1.9	6.5	8.8	6.4	8.0	5.5	5.0
4 or more	7.3	0.6	5.1	13.6	10.6	7.1	7.1	5.5
Don't know/ no answer	28.6	38.7	28.5	23.0	23.9	26.5	31.5	31.1
Total	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	99.9	100.1	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many nominally paid employees other than clergy does your congregation have?

paid workers. Small congregations (39 percent) were more likely not to answer this question than medium-size (29 percent) or large (23 percent) congregations.

Congregations varied in their use of nominally paid employees by orientation. Very conservative congregations were far more likely to report that they had no nominally paid employees (38 percent) than conservative (29 percent), moderate (24 percent), or liberal (26 percent) congregations. Half of all liberal and moderate congregations reported using from one to four or more nominally paid employees compared with 39 percent of conservative and 31 percent of very conservative congregations.

Table 4.7 provides the estimated number of total paid employees other than clergy at the 286,811 congregations identified by size. There were approximately 1.16 million paid employees of which 352,000 were full-time, 499,000 were part-time, and 306,000 were nominally paid. Total employment at all congregations including the 2.6 percent of congregations that did not report their size of membership is estimated at 1.19 million.

Proportionately, small and medium-size congregations were far more likely to use part-time and nominally paid employees than large congregations. Of the total employees (91,000) in small congregations, 24 percent were full-time, 43 percent were part-time, and 33 percent were nominally paid. Of the total employees (381,000) at medium-size congregations, 21 percent were full-time, 52 percent were part-time and 27 percent were nominally paid. Of the 684,000 employees of large congregations, 38 percent were part-time, 37 percent were full-time, and 25 percent were nominally paid.

Congregations had an average of four employees per congregation that were full-time, part-time, or nominally paid. On average, small congregations had under two employees per congregation, medium-size had an average of three employees, and large congregations had nearly seven employees.

TABLE 4.7
NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS AND PAID EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN CLERGY BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(Of the 294,217 congregations in the universe, 286,211 are identified by size of congregation)

Size of Congregation	Congregations (Number)	Paid Employees				Average Number of Employees Per Congregation
		Total (Number)	Full-Time (Number)	Part-Time (Number)	Nominally Paid (Number)	
Total	286,811*	1,156,935	351,505	499,464	305,966	4.0
Small	60,300	91,252	21,578	39,033	30,641	1.5
Medium	123,832	381,456	78,585	199,343	103,528	3.1
Large	102,679	684,227	251,342	261,088	171,797	6.7

*Total number of congregations in the universe established for this survey, 294,271 is 2.6 percent greater than the number of congregations identified by size, 286,811. Assuming that the congregations not identified by size had a similar distribution of paid employees other than clergy as congregations identified by size, the overall estimate for paid employees is 1,187,015 (1,156,935 × 1.026).

Volunteers in Congregations

The use of volunteers by congregations is an almost universal practice. **Table 4.8** provides detail on the number of volunteers congregations reported using in an average month, exclusive of clergy. Less than 1 percent of congregations reported that they had no volunteers; 41 percent reported that they had from 15 to 44 volunteers contributing time to the congregation in an average month, and another 34 percent reported more than 45 volunteers per month. Only 10 percent of congregations reported that they could not answer this question.

The number of volunteers varied by size of congregation. About 79 percent of small congregations reported using fewer than 34 volunteers per month. Forty-one percent of large congregations reported that they had 65 or more volunteers working for their congregation in an average month. There was not much difference in the use and number of volunteers by orientation of congregation.

When congregational representatives were asked to estimate the average hours per month that volunteers worked, 37 percent were not able to provide an answer. Of those congregations that did respond, less than 1 percent responded that volunteers gave no time, and more than 6 out of 10 congregations provided estimates of volunteer hours per month, as shown in **table 4.9.** The largest proportion of total congregations (30 percent) reported that volunteers gave 10 or more hours per month. Very conservative congregations (39 percent) were more likely to report that their volunteers gave 10 or more hours per month than were conservative (31 percent), moderate (27 percent), or liberal (20 percent).

It is clear from these findings that the involvement of volunteers in congregations is a universal practice regardless of the size or orientation of congregation. Although congregations found it harder to estimate the average hours per month that individuals volunteered than to provide the number of volunteers, these findings still reveal that members of congregations provide much service through volunteer activities.

Table 4.10 shows that there were an estimated 10.4 million volunteers at 287,000 congregations. Of this 10.4 million, 1.1 million (11 percent) were volunteers at small congregations, 4.2 million (40 percent) at medium-size, and 5.1 million (49 percent) at large congregations. If total volunteers were estimated for the 2.6 percent of congregations that did not provide their membership size, it is likely that there were 10.7 million volunteers at congregations in 1986.

Individual Giving to Congregations

Congregations derive most of their income from individual giving to support their operations and programs. Respondents were asked to report on how much income their congregations received from individual giving, excluding bequests, from pledges, collection plates, or fixed fees in 1986.

Table 4.11 provides detail on the percentage of congregations that reported how much income they received from pledges by size and orientation of congregation. Overall, 36 percent of congregations reported that they received no income from pledges. Small congregations were most likely to report that they received no income from pledges (51 percent) compared with medium-size (38 percent) and large (26

TABLE 4.8

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS OTHER THAN CLERGY USED IN AN AVERAGE MONTH BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Volunteers Per Month	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.9
Under 10	7.1	18.0	5.4	2.3	5.3	5.2	7.8	9.8
10-14	7.5	17.5	6.0	3.4	5.7	6.9	7.0	10.0
15-24	17.1	31.0	21.5	5.3	14.5	15.4	17.5	21.4
25-34	13.6	12.1	18.4	8.9	14.7	14.0	14.6	10.9
35-44	10.1	5.9	13.1	8.4	7.8	9.3	12.2	8.4
45-54	9.0	2.2	11.3	10.6	11.2	10.2	8.1	8.7
55-64	4.3	0.3	4.2	6.9	6.2	5.0	3.9	3.3
65 or more	20.5	1.4	11.5	40.8	23.0	21.4	20.8	15.7
Don't know/ no answer	10.3	10.7	8.5	12.5	11.0	12.3	7.8	10.9
Total	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	100.2	100.2	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How many volunteers other than clergy were used by your congregation in an average month during the past year?

TABLE 4.9

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING NUMBER OF HOURS PER MONTH VOLUNTEERED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN CLERGY, BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Volunteers Per Month	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
None	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
1	1.1	1.5	1.0	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.2
2	3.6	2.7	3.8	3.7	5.6	4.3	3.2	2.1
3	4.1	2.9	4.3	4.6	6.1	4.8	4.5	1.3
4	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.0	7.2	6.1	4.3	3.8
5	6.7	4.0	7.9	6.5	6.7	7.1	7.8	4.2
6	4.2	5.2	3.7	4.5	3.8	6.1	3.2	3.8
7-9	7.8	9.0	7.2	8.4	5.0	7.7	9.4	6.4
10 or more	30.1	30.8	31.0	28.4	20.1	26.5	31.3	39.2
Don't know/ no answer	37.1	38.9	35.7	37.6	44.0	36.0	34.9	38.4
Total	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	100.2	100.2	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: on the average, how many hours per month do individual volunteers (excluding clergy) perform volunteer work for your congregation?

TABLE 4.10

NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS OTHER THAN CLERGY USED IN AN AVERAGE MONTH: 1986
(Of the 294,271 congregations in the universe, 286,811 are identified by size of congregation)

Size of Congregation	Congregation		Volunteers Other Than Clergy		Average Number of Volunteers Per Congregation
	(Number)	(Percentage)	(Number)	(Percentage)	
Total	286,811*	100.0	10,390,432	100.0	36.2
Small	60,300	21.0	1,137,538	11.0	18.9
Medium	123,832	43.2	4,180,981	40.0	33.8
Large	102,679	35.8	5,071,913	48.8	49.4

*Total number of congregations in the universe established for this survey, 294,271, is 2.6 percent greater than the number of congregations identified by size, 286,811. Assuming that the congregations not identified by size had a similar distribution of volunteers other than clergy as congregations identified by size, the overall estimate is 10,660,583 (10,390,432 × 1.026).

TABLE 4.11

PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING INCOME FROM PLEDGES BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Dollars From Pledges	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	36.2	50.8	37.8	26.4	23.5	30.2	39.3	49.4
1- 49,999	15.6	16.6	22.8	6.7	26.9	15.0	14.7	10.5
50,000- 99,999	9.9	2.3	12.3	12.1	15.6	13.7	7.7	4.5
100,000-199,999	6.4	0.0	2.4	14.1	8.3	9.0	5.9	2.7
200,000 or more	5.1	0.0	0.3	13.9	8.0	5.8	4.8	1.8
Don't know/ no answer	26.7	30.4	24.5	26.8	17.7	26.4	27.7	31.2
Total	99.9	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How much of individual giving (excluding bequests) came through pledges of a specific dollar amount or a proportion of income in the most recent fiscal year?

percent) congregations. The largest proportion of small congregations (17 percent) reported receiving from $1 to $49,999 in pledges. Only 2.3 percent reported receiving from $50,000 to $99,999, and 30 percent did not know or could not provide an answer to this question.

Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of medium-size congregations reported receiving from $1 to $49,999 in pledges, and 12 percent reported from $50,999 to $99,999. Only 3 percent reported that they received $100,000 or more in pledges, and 25 percent did not answer this question. A substantially larger proportion of large congregations (28 percent) reported receiving $100,000 or more in pledges. Another 19 percent reported receiving from $1 to $99,999, and 27 percent did not answer this question.

There were some differences in reporting income from pledges by orientation of congregation. Very conservative congregations were most likely to report that they received almost no income from pledges (49 percent), and liberal congregations least likely (24 percent). Nearly 43 percent of liberal congregations reported receiving from $1 to $99,999 in pledges compared with 29 percent of moderate, 22 percent of conservative, and 15 percent of very conservative congregations. Overall, 59 percent of liberal congregations reported receiving some income from pledges compared with 44 percent of moderate, 33 percent of conservative, and 19 percent of very conservative congregations.

While 36 percent of congregations reported no income from pledges (see table 4.11), only 4 percent reported that they received no income from collections, as shown in **table 4.12.** Approximately 20 percent of congregations reported from $1 to $19,999 in income from collections; another 32 percent reported from $20,000 to $99,999, and 18 percent reported $100,000 or more. Over one-quarter (27 percent) of total congregations did not answer this question.

Half of all small congregations reported receiving from $10,000 to $99,999 in collections. Fifty-five percent of medium-size congregations reported from $10,000 to $199,999 in collections, and 53 percent of large congregations reported from $20,000 to $200,000 or more . There were no major differences in the proportion of congregations by orientation that reported income from pledges.

Sixty-three percent of congregations reported that they received no income from fixed fees, as shown in **table 4.13.** Another 27 percent did not know or did not answer this question. Of the 10 percent of congregations that responded that they received some income from fixed fees, 2 percent reported receiving from $1 to $1,999; 3 percent reported from $2,000 to $9,999; and 5 percent reported $10,000 or more.

Large congregations were most likely to report income from fixed fees (15 percent), and small congregations least likely (3 percent). A higher proportion of liberal congregations (13 percent) and moderate (14 percent) reported income from fees than conservative (8 percent) or very conservative congregations (7 percent). These findings show that only a small proportion of congregations derive income from fixed fees.

Estimated total income from pledges, collections, and fixed fees was $41.4 billion in 1986, as shown in **table 4.14.** This estimate is very close to the estimate of $41.7 billion for contributions to religious organizations for 1986 published in *Giving USA* (1988 edition) by the American Association for Fund Raising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy. Of this $41.4 billion, $14.9 billion came from pledges, $24.7 billion came from collections, and $1.9 billion came from fixed fees. Total income from donations was $2.3 billion for the 60,000

TABLE 4.12
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING INCOME FROM COLLECTIONS BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Dollars from Collection Plates	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	3.5	4.8	2.8	3.1	5.5	5.4	2.5	1.7
1- 4,999	8.0	6.0	10.7	6.1	13.5	11.4	6.2	3.6
5,000- 9,999	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.5	7.2	6.2	3.2	3.3
10,000- 19,999	7.2	12.9	6.6	5.4	9.9	10.2	5.6	4.9
20,000- 49,999	17.6	27.5	15.4	14.6	18.2	15.4	17.3	21.1
50,000- 99,999	14.2	10.6	19.7	9.1	11.8	11.4	16.9	15.7
100,000-199,999	10.7	2.7	13.1	12.8	7.8	6.7	14.9	9.8
200,000 or more	7.1	0.3	2.4	16.6	8.3	6.9	5.7	8.9
Don't know/ no answer	26.7	30.4	24.5	26.8	17.7	26.4	27.7	31.2
Total	99.9	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.2

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.
Question: How much of individual giving (excluding bequests) came through the collection plate?

TABLE 4.13
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING INCOME FROM FIXED FEES BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Dollars from Fixed Fees	Total	Size of Congregation			Orientation			
		Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
0	63.3	66.4	67.6	58.0	69.4	60.0	64.8	61.9
1-1,999	2.1	1.4	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.8	2.2	0.8
2,000-9,999	2.9	0.8	2.9	4.3	3.1	5.5	1.9	1.8
10,000 or more	4.9	1.0	2.8	8.8	7.5	5.4	3.5	4.4
Don't know/ no answer	26.7	30.4	24.5	26.8	17.7	26.4	27.7	31.2
Total	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: How much of individual giving (excluding bequests) came through fixed fees (including membership dues)?

TABLE 4.14
PLEDGES, COLLECTIONS, AND FIXED FEES BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(Congregations are in numbers of congregations. Pledges, collections, and fixed fees are in millions of dollars.)

Size of Congregation	Congregations (Number)	Total (Dollars)	Pledges (Dollars)	Collections (Dollars)	Fixed Fees (Dollars)	Average Per Congregation (Dollars)
Total	294,271	41,409	14,874	24,650	1,866	140,700
Small	60,300	2,317	353	1,936	28	38,400
Medium	123,832	10,322	2,966	7,116	243	83,400
Large	102,679	25,817	10,807	13,578	1,427	251,400
Don't know/ no answer	7,456	2,953	748	2,020	168	393,700

Note: From 1,353 congregations which provided figures for pledges, collections, and fixed fees. The "don't know" group is estimated based on the assumption that the 2.6 percent of congregations not identified by size had a similar distribution as those which identified their size. Estimates may not add to totals because of rounding.

small congregations, $10.3 billion for the 124,000 medium-size, and $25.8 billion for the 103,000 large congregations. An estimated $3 billion was contributed to the 7,000 congregations that did not report their size.

Table 4.15 shows that 57 percent of total giving to congregations came from collections. Another 36 percent came from pledges, and 5 percent from fixed fees. Small congregations received the bulk of their donations from collections (84 percent) compared with medium-size (69 percent) and large (53 percent) congregations. On the other hand, large congregations received 42 percent of their donations from pledges, compared with 29 percent for medium-size and 15 percent for small congregations. Fixed fees only provided a small proportion of total income for congregations regardless of size.

Restricted and Unrestricted Giving

Congregations were asked to estimate the proportion of total individual giving that was restricted (designated for a specific purpose) or unrestricted. **Table 4.16** shows that only 10 percent of congregations reported that less than 70 percent of total individual giving was unrestricted; another 9 percent reported between 71 and 80 percent; and 30 percent reported between 81 and 100 percent. Over half of the congregations (52 percent) did not know or did not answer this question. There were no major differences by size or orientation of congregation.

Approximately 13 percent of congregations reported that none of their giving was designated for a specific purpose. Another 30 percent reported that 1 to 19 percent of their total individual giving was restricted, and 17 percent reported that 20 percent or more was restricted. Over four out of ten congregations could not or did not answer this question. There were no major differences by size or orientation of congregation.

Expectations About Giving in Current Year Compared to Previous Year

When congregations were asked to estimate the

TABLE 4.15
PROPORTION OF TOTAL GIVING TO CONGREGATIONS FROM PLEDGES, COLLECTIONS, AND FIXED FEES BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(In millions of dollars)

Type of Donation	Total		Size of Congregation: Small		Medium		Large		Don't know/ no answer	
	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Percent)
Total	41,409	100.0	2,317	100.0	10,322	100.0	25,817	100.0	2,953	99.5
Pledges	14,874	35.9	353	15.2	2,966	28.7	10,807	41.9	748	25.3
Collections	24,650	59.6	1,936	83.6	7,116	68.9	13,578	52.6	2,020	68.4
Fixed fees	1,866	4.5	28	1.2	243	2.4	1,427	5.5	168	5.8

Note: See note on table 4.14. Columns may not add to totals nor percentages to 100 because of rounding.

TABLE 4.16
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING THE PROPORTION OF TOTAL INDIVIDUAL GIVING THAT WAS RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

Dollars from Fixed Fees	Total	Size of Congregation: Small	Medium	Large	Orientation: Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Unrestricted								
Below 70	9.6	8.8	10.5	9.0	11.3	10.1	9.5	8.8
71-80	8.6	6.7	9.2	9.0	7.5	7.8	9.4	8.3
81-90	14.5	16.3	14.3	14.2	12.6	14.5	15.3	13.8
91-99	14.9	11.1	17.4	15.2	18.8	12.3	15.7	14.8
Don't know/ no answer	52.4	57.1	48.7	52.7	49.6	55.2	50.1	54.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.1
Restricted								
0	12.7	17.9	11.6	11.2	15.6	12.8	10.9	13.8
1- 9	14.9	11.1	17.3	15.2	18.8	12.3	15.7	14.8
10-19	14.5	16.3	14.3	14.2	12.6	14.5	15.3	13.8
20 or more	16.8	13.5	18.5	16.8	16.3	16.3	18.3	15.4
Don't know/ no answer	41.0	41.2	38.4	42.6	36.7	44.1	39.8	42.3
Total	99.9	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: What percentage of total individual giving from all sources (including bequests) to your congregation was unrestricted, and what was restricted or designated for specific purposes?

change they expected in individual giving in the current year compared with the previous year, 44 percent expected a small increase in total giving; 13 percent expected a large increase; and 20 percent expected no change. Only 7 percent expected some decrease; and 16 percent did not answer this question, as shown on **table 4.17.**

Large congregations (50 percent) were more likely to report that they only expected a small increase in total giving than medium-size (41 percent), and small (40 percent) congregations. However, small congregations (24 percent) were more likely not to provide an answer to this question, and large congregations (16 percent) least likely.

Liberal congregations (50 percent) were most likely to report a small increase in total giving, and very conservative congregations (35 percent) least likely. On the other hand, very conservative congregations (24 percent) were most likely to report that they expected no change in total giving, and liberal congregations (15 percent) least likely.

In summary, these findings show that 95 percent of total giving to congregations is donated through collections and pledges, and only 5 percent through fixed fees. Most giving to congregations is unrestricted, and on average, congregations report that restricted giving is between 1 and 20 percent of total donations. A majority of congregations (56 percent) reported that

TABLE 4.17
PERCENTAGE OF CONGREGATIONS REPORTING EXPECTATIONS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL GIVING FROM PLEDGES COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR BY SIZE AND ORIENTATION OF CONGREGATION

		Size of Congregation			Orientation			
	Total	Small	Medium	Large	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative
Large increase	12.7	11.6	12.6	13.2	17.0	11.4	11.2	13.8
Small increase	43.7	39.7	41.3	49.5	49.6	46.6	44.6	34.8
No change	20.1	18.9	21.6	18.5	14.8	19.5	20.3	23.7
Small decrease	5.9	4.7	6.7	6.0	5.7	6.6	6.6	3.2
Large decrease	1.2	1.6	1.6	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.5	0.7
Don't know/ no answer	16.4	23.5	16.0	12.4	11.7	14.9	15.8	23.8
Total	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Question: Which of the following best describes the change you expect in individual giving to come from pledges in your current fiscal year?

they expected some increase in giving, and only 7 percent expected some decrease. Another one out of five congregations expected no change in total giving.

The Allocation of Time of Clergy, Employees, and Volunteers Among Major Activity Areas

Respondents were asked to estimate the hours per month that clergy, paid employees, and volunteers spent on various major programs in their congregations. **Table 4.18** provides estimates on the total hours spent by each group for all activities, religious programs, and all other activities by size of congregation. Approximately 12.2 million clergy, paid employees, and volunteers worked a total of 301 million hours per month in various congregational programs.

Volunteers provide the highest proportion of workers (85 percent) for congregations. Paid employees represent 10 percent and clergy nearly 6 percent of the total workforce. There was little difference in the proportion of total workers represented by volunteers by size of congregation. Clergy comprised a larger proportion of the workforce at small congregations (9 percent), compared with medium-size (6 percent) and large (5 percent) congregations. The proportion of the total workforce represented by paid employees increased by size of congregation from 7 percent at small congregations to 11 percent at large congregations.

Overall, clergy provided 39 percent of the total hours worked at congregations. The work done by paid employees represented 25 percent and the work of volunteers was 36 percent of total hours worked.

The total hours worked by clergy, paid employees, and volunteers varied by size of congregation. Clergy provided 54 percent of the total hours worked at small congregations, compared with 44 percent at medium-

FIGURE 4.1
TOTAL HOURS PERFORMED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS MINISTRY, EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION

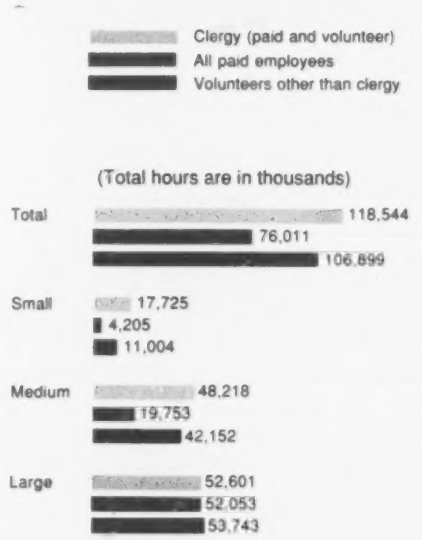


TABLE 4.18

NUMBER OF PERSONS, TOTAL AND AVERAGE HOURS PERFORMED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS MINISTRY, EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION

(Total hours are in thousands)

Persons By Size of Congregation	All Activities					Religious Ministry/Education			Other Activities		
	Persons		All Hours		Average	Hours		Average	Hours		Average
	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	Hours	(Number)	(Percent)	Hours	(Number)	(Percent)	Hours
Total	12,235,597	100.0	301,454	100.0	24.6	176,136	100.0	14.4	125,318	100.0	10.2
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	688,230	5.6	118,544	39.3	172.2	80,926	45.9	117.6	37,618	30.0	54.7
All paid employees	1,156,935	9.5	76,011	25.2	65.7	39,320	22.3	34.0	36,691	29.3	31.7
Volunteers other than clergy	10,390,432	84.9	106,899	35.5	10.3	55,890	31.7	5.4	51,009	40.7	4.9
Small	1,348,296	100.0	32,934	100.0	24.4	21,620	100.0	16.0	11,314	100.0	8.4
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	119,506	8.9	17,725	53.8	148.3	13,191	61.0	110.4	4,534	40.1	37.9
All paid employees	91,252	6.8	4,205	12.8	46.1	1,605	7.4	17.6	2,600	23.0	28.5
Volunteers other than clergy	1,137,538	84.4	11,004	33.4	9.7	6,824	31.6	6.0	4,180	36.9	3.7
Medium	4,841,109	100.0	110,123	100.0	22.7	68,621	100.0	14.1	41,502	100.0	8.6
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	278,672	5.7	48,218	43.8	173.0	34,661	50.5	124.4	13,558	32.7	48.7
All paid employees	381,456	7.9	19,753	17.9	51.8	10,190	14.8	26.7	9,563	23.0	25.1
Volunteers other than clergy	4,180,981	86.4	42,152	38.3	10.1	23,770	34.6	5.7	18,381	44.3	4.4
Large	6,046,192	100.0	158,397	100.0	26.2	85,894	100.0	14.2	72,503	100.0	12.0
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	290,052	4.8	52,601	33.2	181.3	33,074	38.5	114.0	19,527	26.9	67.3
All paid employees	684,227	11.3	52,053	32.9	76.1	27,525	32.0	40.2	24,528	33.8	35.8
Volunteers other than clergy	5,071,913	83.9	53,743	33.9	10.6	25,295	29.4	5.0	28,448	39.2	5.6

Note: See note to table 4.14.

Question: Would you please estimate how the time spent is distributed during an average month among the different programs and activities of your congregation.

size congregations, and 33 percent at large congregations. Of total hours worked, paid employees provided 13 percent at small congregations, 18 percent at medium-size congregations, and 33 percent at large congregations. Volunteers provided about one-third of the total hours worked at small and large congregations, and 38 percent at medium-size congregations.

The total average hours per month worked per member of clergy ranged from 148 hours at small congregations to 181 hours at large congregations. Paid employees worked an average of 46 hours per month at small congregations, 52 hours at medium-size congregations, and 76 hours at large congregations. The average hours individuals volunteered per month did not vary very much by size of congregation.

The percentage of total hours spent on religious activities and all other activities by various groups at the congregation varied substantially by size of congregation. Overall, clergy provided 46 percent of total hours worked in religious activities. At small congregations, clergy provided 61 percent of the total hours worked in religious programs, at medium-size congregations they provided 51 percent, and at large congregations they provided 39 percent. While the national average of the total hours worked by clergy in all other activities was 30 percent, this average varied by size of congregation. Clergy provided 40 percent of the total hours worked on all activities at small congregations, compared with 33 percent at medium-size congregations, and 27 percent at large congregations.

While the proportion of total hours worked in religious activities and other activities did not vary very much by size of congregation, there was a substantial variation in the proportion of total hours worked by paid employees by size of congregation. Paid employees provided 7 percent of the total hours worked in religious activities at small congregations, compared with 15 percent of medium-size congregations and 32 percent at large congregations. This pattern varied somewhat in other activities. Paid employees provided 29 percent of the total hours worked on other activities at small congregations, 25 percent at medium-size, and 36 percent at large congregations.

Table 4.19 provides detail on the distribution of hours to religious and other activities worked per month by clergy, paid employees, and volunteers. Total clergy provided 39 percent of the total hours worked for all congregational activities. This represented 68 percent of the total hours worked on religious programs and 32 percent of the total hours worked on other programs. The proportion of total hours worked by clergy on religious and other activities varied somewhat by size of congregation. Total clergy hours for all religious programs represented 74 percent of clergy hours at small congregations, 72 percent at medium-size, and 63 percent at large congregations.

Of the proportion of total hours worked by paid employees (25 percent) on all activities, 52 percent went to religious activities, and 48 percent to all other

TABLE 4.19

ALL HOURS WORKED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS BY RELIGIOUS MINISTRY, EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION AND PERSON'S CATEGORY

(Total hours are in thousands)

Persons By Size of Congregation	All Activities		Religious Ministry/Education		Other Activities	
	Hours	Percent of All Hours	Hours	Percent of All Hours	Hours	Percent of All Hours
Total	301,454	100.0	176,136	58.4	125,318	41.6
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	118,544	39.3	80,926	68.3	37,618	31.7
All paid employees	76,011	25.2	39,320	51.7	36,691	48.3
Volunteers other than clergy	106,899	35.5	55,890	52.3	51,009	47.7
Small	32,934	100.0	21,620	65.6	11,314	34.4
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	17,725	53.8	13,191	74.4	4,534	25.6
All paid employees	4,205	12.8	1,605	38.2	2,600	61.8
Volunteers other than clergy	11,004	33.4	6,824	62.0	4,180	38.0
Medium	110,123	100.0	68,621	62.3	41,502	37.7
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	48,218	43.8	34,661	71.9	13,558	28.1
All paid employees	19,753	17.9	10,190	51.6	9,563	48.4
Volunteers other than clergy	42,152	38.3	23,770	56.4	18,381	43.6
Large	158,397	100.0	85,894	54.2	72,503	45.8
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	52,601	33.2	33,074	62.9	19,527	37.1
All paid employees	52,053	32.9	27,525	52.9	24,528	47.1
Volunteers other than clergy	53,743	33.9	25,295	47.1	28,448	52.9

Note: See note for table 4.14.

programs. However, there was significant variations of the distribution of the time of paid employees given to activities by size of congregation. In small congregations, 38 percent of the total time worked by paid employees was devoted to religious activities, compared with 52 percent at medium-size congregations, and 53 percent at large congregations. Alternately, paid employees at small congregations provided a much larger proportion of their total hours (62 percent) to other programs than they did at medium-size (48 percent), or large (47 percent) congregations.

While nationally total volunteer time was distributed fairly evenly between religious programs (52 percent) and other programs (48 percent), the distribution of total volunteers hours varied by size of congregation. In small congregations, 62 percent of total volunteer time was devoted to religious programs, compared with 56 percent at medium-size congregations, and 47 percent at large congregations. Alternately, 53 percent of total volunteer time at large congregations was devoted to other activities, compared with 44 percent at medium-size congregations and 38 percent at small congregations.

Table 4.20 shows the distribution of total clergy, paid employees, and volunteers, and the total hours worked in religious and other activities. Of the 42 percent of total hours worked in all other program activities, the percentage distribution of time spent was 14 percent on education, 9 percent on human services, 6 percent on health or hospitals, 3 percent on public and societal benefit, 3 percent on arts and culture, 3 percent on international activities, and 1 percent on the environment.

The distribution of hours worked in each of the major activity areas varied by type of employee. Overall, clergy gave more of their time to religious activities (68 percent) than other activities (32 percent). The distribution of time for both paid employees and volunteers was more evenly distributed—52 percent to religious activities and 48 percent to other program activities.

The distribution of total time spent by clergy, paid employees, and volunteers for various programs varied by activity. Clergy and volunteers gave a higher proportion of their total time to programs relating to public and societal benefit, international activities, environment quality, and health or hospitals than did paid employees. Paid employees and volunteers spent more time than clergy for programs on education, human services, and arts and culture. The highest proportion of clergy time spent on other activities was in education (10 percent), human services (7 percent), and health (7 percent). Paid employees also spent the largest proportion of their time in education (18 percent), and human services (9 percent), as did volunteers (18 percent) and 12 percent (respectively).

Total hours worked in various activities other than religion were aggregated and distributed by major activity areas and by type of employee in each activity area, as shown in **table 4.21.** Of the 125.3 million hours per month spent in an average month on other activities, 30 percent was given by clergy, 29 percent by paid employees, and 41 percent by volunteers. These hours represented 32 percent of total hours worked in congregations by clergy, and 48 percent of the total hours worked by paid employees and

TABLE 4.20
TOTAL HOURS PERFORMED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS BY ACTIVITIES, BY CLERGY, PAID EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS OTHER THAN CLERGY, RANKED BY TOTAL HOURS IN MAJOR ACTIVITY AREAS
(Total hours are in thousands)

	All Persons		Clergy (paid and volunteer)		Paid Employees Other Than Clergy		Volunteers Other Than Clergy	
	(Hours)	(Percent)	(Hours)	(Percent)	(Hours)	(Percent)	(Hours)	(Percent)
Persons (number)	12,235,597	—	688,230	—	1,156,935	—	10,390,432	—
Average hours per person	24.6	—	172.2	—	65.7	—	10.3	—
Total	301,454	100.0	118,544	100.0	76,011	100.0	106,899	100.0
Religious ministry/education	176,136	58.4	80,926	68.3	39,320	51.7	55,890	52.3
Other activities	125,318	41.6	37,618	31.7	36,691	48.3	51,009	47.7
Education	43,485	14.4	11,234	9.5	13,445	17.7	18,806	17.6
Human services/welfare	28,138	9.3	8,641	7.3	6,685	8.8	12,812	12.0
Health	17,311	5.7	8,281	7.0	1,686	2.2	7,344	6.9
Public/societal benefit	10,069	3.3	4,337	3.7	876	1.2	4,856	4.5
Arts and culture	9,744	3.2	1,823	1.5	1,640	2.2	6,281	5.9
International	9,378	3.1	3,383	2.9	1,074	1.4	4,921	4.6
Environment	4,377	1.4	2,369	2.0	592	0.8	1,416	1.3
Error of closure[a] (associated with other activities)	(2,816)	(1.2)	(-2,450)	(-2.2)	(10,693)	(14.0)	(-5,427)	(-5.1)

Note: See note on table 4.14.

— Not applicable.

[a]The estimates of total person hours performed per month for congregations and further classified by eight specified activities were developed by obtaining separate employment estimates for clergy (paid and volunteer) all paid employees (full-time, part-time, and nominally paid) and volunteers other than clergy. Accompanying average hours performed per month for each employment category were then estimated and multiplied by the corresponding employment estimates. These hours were then distributed among the eight activities and employment categories based on percentage estimates of the time spent on each activity. For activities other than religious ministry/education, the control total estimate is 125,318,000 performed per month. For all persons, the estimates derived by summing individual estimates for each activity is 122,502,000 hours performed per month, or an error of closure of 2,816,000 hours (125,318,000 minus 122,502,000). However, this estimate is the result of the hour summations being higher for clergy and volunteers other than clergy compared with their control total and lower for all paid employees other than clergy. For clergy, it is 2,450,000 hours and for volunteers other than clergy 5,427,000 hours while for all paid employees other than clergy the shortfall is 10,693,000 hours.

volunteers.

Congregations devoted most of their hours to programs on education, human services, and health or hospitals. These programs represented 71 percent of the total hours spent on other activities. For programs on education, clergy gave 26 percent of the total hours which was 10 percent of the total hours worked on all activities by clergy. Paid employees gave 31 percent of the total hours worked on education which was 18 percent of total hours worked by paid employees, and volunteers gave 43 percent of all hours worked on education, representing 18 percent of total hours worked by volunteers.

Clergy provided 31 percent of the total hours spent on human services which was the second largest program area. Paid employees gave 24 percent and volunteers, 46 percent. These hours represented 7 percent of the total hours worked by clergy, 9 percent of total hours worked by paid employees, and 12 percent of total volunteer hours.

The third largest activity area was in health programs. Of the total hours given to these programs, clergy gave 48 percent, paid employees gave 10 percent, and volunteers gave 42 percent. These hours represented 7 percent of the total hours worked by clergy and volunteers, and 2 percent of the total hours worked by paid employees. The other 29 percent of total hours spent on other activities by clergy, paid employees, and volunteers were distributed among programs relating to public or societal benefits, arts and culture, international activities, and the environment.

These findings show that over 40 percent of the total hours worked by clergy, paid employees, and volunteers are devoted to major activity areas other than religious programs. On average, clergy gave two-thirds of their time to religious programs and one-third to other activities, while paid employees and volunteers devoted about half of their time on both religious programs and other activities. These findings also clearly demonstrate that congregations have a major involvement in a variety of programs that serve their members and their communities.

The Finances of Congregations

Congregations were asked to list their total revenues by source of revenue for the most recently completed fiscal year. **Table 4.22** presents the average reve-

TABLE 4.21

NUMBER OF PERSONS, TOTAL AND AVERAGE HOURS PERFORMED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS, MINISTRY AND EDUCATION, RANKED BY TOTAL HOURS IN MAJOR ACTIVITY AREAS

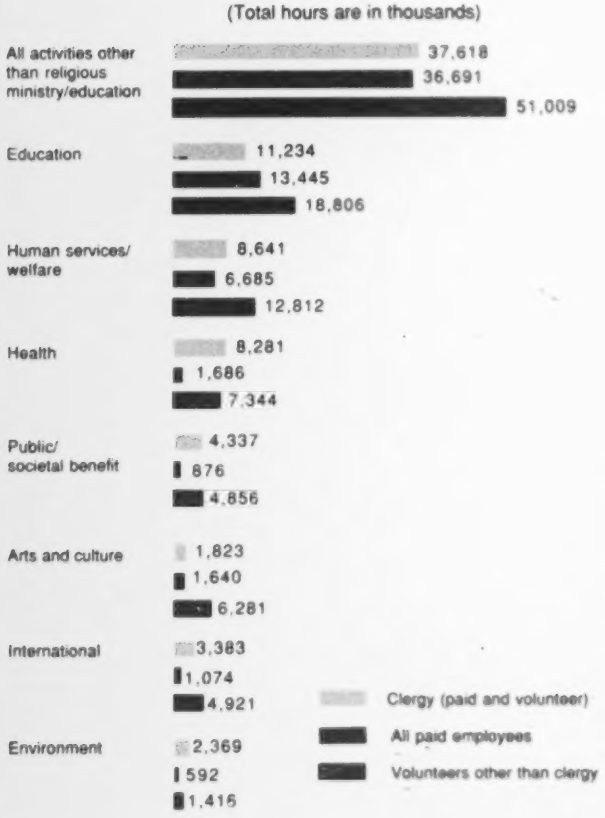
(Total hours are in thousands)

	Hours			
	Amount	Percent	Percent of All Hours	Average Hours
		All activities other than religious ministry/education		
Total	125,318	100.0	41.6	10.2
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	37,618	30.0	31.7	54.7
All paid employees	36,691	29.3	48.3	31.7
Volunteers other than clergy	51,009	40.7	47.7	4.9
		Education		
Total	43,485	100.0	14.4	3.5
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	11,234	25.8	9.5	16.3
All paid employees	13,445	30.9	17.7	11.6
Volunteers other than clergy	18,806	43.2	17.6	1.8
		Human services/welfare		
Total	28,138	100.0	9.3	2.3
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	8,641	30.7	7.3	12.6
All paid employees	6,685	23.7	8.8	5.8
Volunteers other than clergy	12,812	45.5	12.0	1.2
		Health		
Total	17,311	100.0	5.7	1.4
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	8,281	47.8	7.0	12.0
All paid employees	1,686	9.7	2.2	1.5
Volunteers other than clergy	7,344	42.4	6.9	0.7
		Public/societal benefit		
Total	10,069	100.0	3.3	0.8
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	4,337	43.1	3.7	6.3
All paid employees	876	8.7	1.2	0.8
Volunteers other than clergy	4,856	48.2	4.5	0.5
		Arts and culture		
Total	9,744	100.0	3.2	0.8
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	1,823	18.7	1.5	2.6
All paid employees	1,640	16.8	2.2	1.4
Volunteers other than clergy	6,281	64.5	5.9	0.6
		International		
Total	9,378	100.0	3.1	0.8
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	3,383	36.1	2.9	4.9
All paid employees	1,074	11.4	1.4	0.9
Volunteers other than clergy	4,921	52.5	4.6	0.5
		Environment		
Total	4,377	100.0	1.4	0.3
Clergy (paid and volunteer)	2,369	54.1	2.0	3.4
All paid employees	592	13.5	0.8	0.5
Volunteers other than clergy	1,416	32.3	1.3	0.1

Note: See note on table 4.14 and a) on table 4.20.

nues for all congregations and by size of congregation. The average revenues for all congregations were $172,800, of which 82 percent ($140,000) came from individual giving. The other sources of revenue comprising 18 percent of the total revenues were divided among bequests (3 percent), contributions from denominational organizations (1 percent), dues, fees and charges for services (5 percent), sales of products, such as literature (1 percent), endowment or investment income (2 percent, and miscellaneous income (7 percent). These findings reveal that congregations are primarily funded through individual donations.

FIGURE 4.2
TOTAL HOURS PERFORMED PER MONTH FOR CONGREGATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS, MINISTRY AND EDUCATION, RANKED BY MAJOR ACTIVITY AREAS



The average revenues were $56,000 for small congregations, $103,500 for medium-size, and $325,000 for large congregations. Approximately 83 percent of total revenues at small and large congregations came from individual giving. Medium-size congregations received 77 percent of their revenues from individual giving, but they had a higher proportion of revenue from miscellaneous sources (14 percent) than small (2 percent), or large congregations (5 percent).

Total revenues for the 286,811 congregations that provided their membership size was $49.6 billion in 1986 (see **table 4.23**). If the 2.6 percent of congregations that did not provide their size were included, total revenues could be as high as $50.9 billion. Approximately 82 percent of total revenues came from individual giving ($40.4 billion), and 18 percent came from a combination of bequests, contributions from denominations, due, fees and charges, sales of products, endowment or investment income, and miscellaneous sources.

The proportion of total revenues represented by small congregations ($3.4 billion) was 7 percent, by medium-size congregations ($12.8 billion) was 26 percent, and by large congregations ($33.4 billion) was 67 percent. Small congregations received a slightly higher proportion of their total income from bequests (4 percent) than medium-size (2 percent), or large (3 percent) congregations. Small and large congregations received a higher proportion of their income from dues, fees, and charges for services (7 percent and 6 percent, respectively) than medium-size congregations (3 percent). Medium-size congregations received a higher proportion of revenue from miscellaneous sources (14 percent) than small (2 percent), or large (5 percent) congregations.

TABLE 4.22
AVERAGE REVENUES OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986

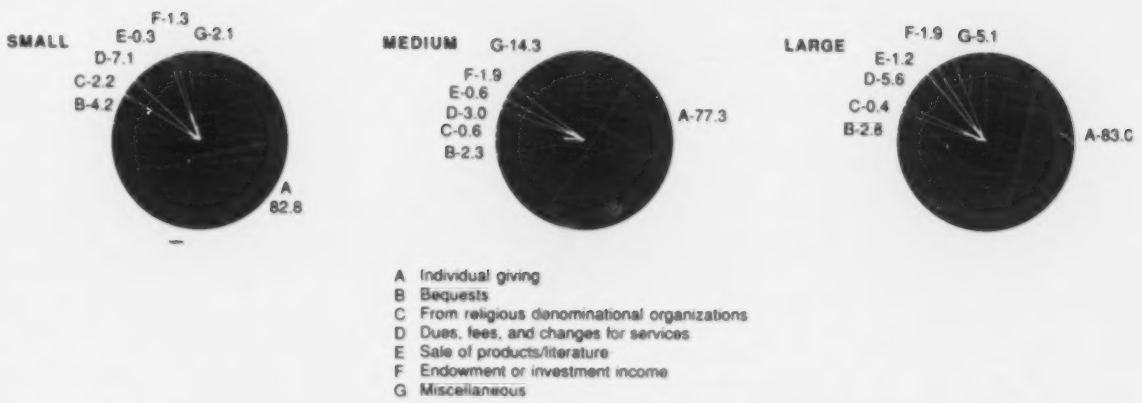
Source of Revenue	Total (Dollars)	Size of Congregation			Percentage Distribution			
		Small (Dollars)	Medium (Dollars)	Large (Dollars)	Total	Small	Medium	Large
Number of congregations	286,811	60,300	123,832	102,679	—	—	—	—
Individual giving	140,860	46,488	79,990	269,694	81.5	82.8	77.3	83.0
Bequests	4,787	2,385	2,333	9,156	2.8	4.2	2.3	2.8
From religious denominational organizations	969	1,224	659	1,192	0.6	2.2	0.6	0.4
Dues, fees, and charges for services	8,644	3,973	3,081	18,097	5.0	7.1	3.0	5.6
Sale of products/literature	1,749	175	656	3,993	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.2
Endowment or investment income	3,217	732	1,955	6,198	1.9	1.3	1.9	1.9
Miscellaneous	12,608	1,168	14,823	16,653	7.3	2.1	14.3	5.1
Average revenues	172,834	56,145	103,497	324,983	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: See note on Table 4.14.
—Not applicable

Question: Please estimate the total amount of revenue for your congregation that came from the following sources for the most recently completed fiscal year.

FIGURE 4.3
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL REVENUES OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986

(All values are in millions of dollars)



A Individual giving
B Bequests
C From religious denominational organizations
D Dues, fees, and charges for services
E Sale of products/literature
F Endowment or investment income
G Miscellaneous

TABLE 4.23
TOTAL REVENUES OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(All values are in millions of dollars)

Source of Revenue	Total (Dollars)	Size of Congregation: Small (Dollars)	Medium (Dollars)	Large (Dollars)	Percentage Distribution: Total	Small	Medium	Large
Number of congregations	286,811	60,300	123,832	102,679	—	—	—	—
Individual giving	40,400.3	2,803.2	9,905.3	27,691.8	81.5	82.8	77.3	83.0
Bequests	1,372.9	143.8	288.9	940.2	2.8	4.2	2.3	2.8
From religious denominational organizations	277.8	73.8	81.6	122.4	0.6	2.2	0.6	0.4
Dues, fees, and charges for services	2,479.3	239.6	381.5	1,858.2	5.0	7.1	3.0	5.6
Sale of products/literature	501.7	10.5	81.2	410.0	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.2
Endowment or investment income	922.7	44.1	242.1	636.5	1.9	1.3	1.9	1.9
Miscellaneous	3,616.0	70.5	1,835.6	1,709.9	7.3	2.1	14.3	5.1
Total revenues[a]	49,570.7	3,385.5	12,816.2	33,369.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: See note on Table 4.14.

—Not applicable.

[a]The total number of congregations in the universe for the survey is 294,271 of which 286,811 are identified by size. If it is assumed that the unidentified congregations by size are similar to the identified ones, then total expenditures are $50,859.5 million (49,570.7 x 1.026).

Congregations were asked to provide their total expenditures by major categories. **Table 4.24** provides the average expenditures of a congregation for all congregations and by size of congregation for 1986. The average expenditures were $54,000 for small congregations, $91,200 for medium size, and $326,500 for large congregations. The average expenditures per congregation were $167,600.

Overall, the $167,600 was divided into $124,400 for current operating expenditures, including $64,700 for salaries and benefits; $33,000 for supplies and occupancy costs; $29,000 for other services, such as postage and printing costs; $29,000 for donations outside the congregation, and $14,100 for construction and other capital costs. Overall, small and medium-size congregations spent a higher proportion of their current operating expenditures on salaries and benefits (60 percent and 58 percent, respectively) than did large congregations (49 percent). Small and medium-size congregations also donated a higher proportion of their current operating expenditures to denominational organizations and other charities (22 percent and 20 percent, respectively) than did large congrega-

TABLE 4.24
AVERAGE EXPENDITURES OF CONGREGATIONS, BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986

Type of Expenditure	Total (Dollars)	Size of Congregation: Small (Dollars)	Medium (Dollars)	Large (Dollars)	Percentage Distribution: Total	Small	Medium	Large
Number of congregations	286,811	60,300	123,832	102,679	—	—	—	—
Current operating expenditures	124,438	39,016	65,806	245,286	74.2	72.2	72.2	75.1
Wages and salaries	50,493	16,100	29,592	95,888	30.1	29.8	32.4	29.4
Fringe benefits	14,209	7,205	8,680	24,986	8.5	13.3	9.5	7.6
Supplies, services and other costs associated with occupancy	33,025	9,696	18,290	64,488	19.7	17.9	20.0	19.7
Other supplies and services	26,712	6,015	9,244	59,924	15.9	11.1	10.1	18.3
Donations	29,120	11,632	18,458	52,244	17.4	21.5	20.2	16.0
Within denomination	19,056	5,749	11,843	35,566	11.4	10.6	13.0	10.9
To other organizations	6,613	2,739	4,141	11,868	3.9	5.1	4.5	3.6
Direct assistance to individuals	3,451	3,144	2,474	4,810	2.0	5.8	2.7	1.5
Construction, capital improvements and acquisition	14,069	3,378	6,925	28,960	8.4	6.2	7.6	8.9
Average expenditures	167,628	54,026	91,189	326,490	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0

Note: See note to Table 4.14. Total number of congregations in the universe for this survey is 294,271. The number of congregations identified by size is 286,811.

— Not applicable

Question: Please show how the expenditures for the most recently completed fiscal year were distributed among the different categories shown below.

TABLE 4.25
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF CONGREGATIONS BY SIZE OF CONGREGATION: 1986
(All values are in millions of dollars)

Type of Expenditure	Total: (Dollars)	(Percent)	Individual Category (Percent)	Small: (Dollars)	(Percent)	Individual Category (Percent)	Medium: (Dollars)	(Percent)	Individual Category (Percent)	Large: (Dollars)	(Percent)	Individual Category (Percent)
Total[a]	48,077.5	100.0	—	3,257.8	100.0	—	11,289.2	100.0	—	33,530.6	100.0	—
Current operating expenditures	35,690.3	74.2	100.0	2,352.7	72.2	100.0	8,146.7	72.2	100.0	25,190.9	75.1	100.0
Wages and salaries	14,482.0	30.1	40.6	970.8	30.0	41.3	3,663.5	32.4	45.0	9,847.7	29.4	39.1
Fringe benefits	4,074.2	8.5	11.4	434.5	13.3	18.5	1,074.6	9.5	13.2	2,566.1	7.6	10.2
Supplies, services and other costs associated with occupancy	9,471.9	19.7	26.5	584.7	17.9	24.8	2,264.3	20.0	27.8	6,622.9	19.7	26.3
Other supplies and services	7,661.3	15.9	21.5	362.7	11.1	15.4	1,144.4	10.0	14.0	6,154.2	18.4	24.4
Donations	8,351.9	17.4	100.0	701.4	21.5	100.0	2,285.1	20.2	100.0	5,365.4	16.0	100.0
Within denomination	5,465.5	11.4	65.4	346.7	10.6	49.4	1,466.2	13.0	64.2	3,652.6	10.9	68.1
To other organizations	1,896.6	3.9	22.7	165.2	5.1	23.5	512.6	4.5	22.4	1,218.8	3.6	22.7
Direct assistance to individuals	989.9	2.1	11.9	189.6	5.8	27.0	306.3	2.7	13.4	494.0	1.5	9.4
Construction, capital improvements and acquisition of real property	4,035.3	8.4	100.0	203.7	6.3	100.0	857.3	7.6	100.0	2,974.3	8.9	100.0

Note: See note on table 4.14.

[a]Total number of congregations in universe for the survey is 294,271, of which 286,811 identified by sizes. If it is assumed that the unidentified congregations by size are similar to the identified ones, then total expenditures are $49,327.5 million (48,077.5 x 1.026). Construction, capital improvements and acquisition of real property was assumed to be one-half of the mean, shown for each size of congregation. This assumption was based on the hypothesis that congregations do not have capital expenditures each year.

tions (16 percent).

When expenditures were aggregated for all congregations, they had total expenditures of $48.1 billion in 1986 (see **table 4.25**). This represented $3.3 billion for small congregations, $11.3 billion for medium-size, and $33.5 billion for large congregations. Of the $48.1 billion, $35.7 billion (74 percent) was spent on current operating expenditures, $8.4 billion (17 percent) on donations to various organizations, and $4.0 billion (8 percent) on capital construction and other outlays.

Of the $8.4 billion on donations by congregations, 65 percent was contributed to organizations within the denominations ($5.5 billion), 23 percent to organizations outside the denominations ($1.9 billion), and 12 percent ($1.0 billion) in direct assistance to individuals. Small congregations gave a smaller proportion of their total donations (49 percent) to organizations within the denominations than did medium-size (64 percent), or large (68 percent) congregations. Small congregations also devoted a much more substantial proportion of their donations in direct assistance to individuals (27 percent) than did medium-size (13 percent), or large (9 percent) congregations. All congregations regardless of size contributed from 22 to 24 percent of their total donations to organizations outside of denominations.

Table 4.26 provides detail on the total current operating expenditures of congregations including the assigned value of volunteer time for religious and other activities. In order to provide a distribution of current operating expenditures by main program activity, expenditures were prorated across total current operating expenditures ($35.7 billion) to provide a functional account of expenditures. The distribution of hours by program activity of clergy, paid employees, and volunteers provided the basis for these estimates.

Overall, the current operating expenditures of all congregations including the assigned value of volunteer time were $48.7 billion, which included $35.7 billion for paid expenditures (see table 4.25) and $13.1 billion as the assigned value of volunteer time. Volunteer time was valued by multiplying the total annual hours of paid employees and dividing them in the total annual wages and benefits which resulted in an hourly wage of $8.74. This hourly wage was significantly lower than the $9.81 hourly wage for nonagricultural workers for 1986. Then the total annual hours for volunteer clergy and individual volunteers were aggregated and multiplied by $8.74 to estimate the value of volunteer time to congregations ($13.1 billion).

When this $48.7 billion was prorated among major activities, 58 percent ($28.4 billion) was spent on religious activities, and 42 percent ($2.3 billion) was spent on other activities. The expenditures by major activity areas other than religious were: $7.0 billion for education, $4.6 billion for human services, $2.8 billion for health or hospitals, $1.6 for public and societal benefit programs, $1.6 billion for arts and culture, $1.6 billion for international activities, and $0.7 billion for programs to improve the environment.

TABLE 4.26
ANNUAL CURRENT OPERATING EXPENDITURES OF CONGREGATIONS, INCLUDING ASSIGNED VALUES FOR VOLUNTEERS; PRORATED AMONG ACTIVITIES AND PERSONS PERFORMING THEM
(All values in millions of dollars)

Current Operating Expenditures and Activities	All (Dollars)	All (Percent)	Current Operating Expenditures Prorated To Persons Performing Activities: Clergy (Dollars)	Clergy (Percent)	Employees (Dollars)	Employees (Percent)	Volunteers (Dollars)	Volunteers (Percent)
Total current operating expenditures	48,748.8*	100.0	19,158.5	100.0	12,284.4	100.0	17,305.2	100.0
Paid expenditures	35,690.4	73.2	17,302.9	90.3	12,284.4	100.0	6,102.4	35.3
Assigned value for volunteers	13,058.4	26.8	1,855.6	9.7	—	—	11,202.8	64.7
Religious ministry/education	28,483.2	58.4	13,084.8	68.3	6,350.4	51.7	9,050.4	52.3
Other activities	20,265.6	41.6	6,073.2	31.7	5,932.8	48.3	8,254.8	47.7
Education	7,032.0	14.4	1,820.4	9.5	2,174.4	17.7	3,045.6	17.6
Human services/welfare	4,550.4	9.3	1,398.0	7.3	1,081.2	8.8	2,076.0	12.0
Health	2,799.6	5.7	1,340.4	7.0	270.0	2.2	1,194.0	6.9
Public/societal benefit	1,628.4	3.3	709.2	3.7	147.6	1.2	778.8	4.5
Arts & culture	1,575.6	3.2	286.8	1.5	270.0	2.2	1,021.2	5.9
International	1,516.8	3.1	555.6	2.9	171.6	1.4	795.6	4.6
Environment	708.0	1.4	382.8	2.0	98.4	0.8	224.4	1.3
Error of closure (associated with other activities)	(+454.8)	(+1.2)	(-420.0)	(-2.2)	(+1,719.6)	(+14.0)	(-880.8)	(-5.1)

Note: See note to table 4.14 and a) on table 4.25.

*Row does not add because of rounding.

[a]Assigned value for volunteers is $8.74 per hour and is based on the estimate of wages and salaries fringe benefits, and hours performed by those who receive payment from their congregations.

—Not applicable

Table 4.27 provides a summary of the total expenditures of congregations for major activities other than religion for 1986. Congregations expended a total of $27.3 billion of which $19.1 billion was for paid expenditures, and $8.3 for the value of volunteer time and associated institutional expenditures for volunteers in various programs.

Of the $19.1 billion in paid expenditures, $10.7 billion was spent for program activities of congregations, and $8.4 billion was donated by congregations to denominational organizations, other organizations, or directly to individuals. This $19.1 billion was 46 percent of the $41.4 billion donated by individuals to congregations in 1986 (see table 4.14).

In summary, these findings show that congregations are a microcosm of their communities. As part of their religious beliefs, they engage in a variety of activities and programs that improve the quality of life of their members as well as their communities. Nearly half of the individual donations to congregations are used to support a broad array of programs that assist people and improve communities. Religious congregations also conduct much of their work through the volunteer activities of their members. These members spent nearly half of the time they volunteered to their congregations on these other activities.

FIGURE 4.4
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONGREGATIONS TO ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: 1986

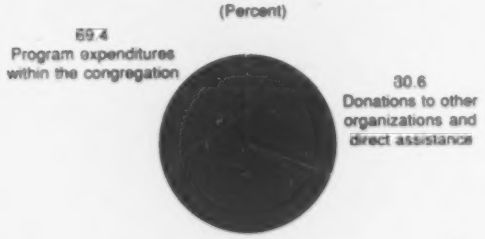


TABLE 4.27
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONGREGATIONS TO ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: 1986
(All values in millions of dollars)

	All (Dollars)	All (Percent)
Total congregational program expenditures, including assigned value of volunteer time[a]	27,313.1	100.0
Donations to other organizations and direct assistance	8,351.9	30.6
Program expenditures within the congregation	18,961.2	69.4
Volunteer time by others than clergy and use of facilities and supplies	8,254.8	30.2
Paid program expenditures	10,706.4	39.2
Education	3,994.8	14.6
Clergy	1,820.4	
Paid employees	2,174.4	
Human services/welfare	2,479.2	9.1
Clergy	1,398.0	
Paid employees	1,081.2	
Health	1,610.4	5.9
Clergy	1,340.4	
Paid employees	270.0	
Public/societal benefit	856.8	3.1
Clergy	709.2	
Paid employees	147.6	
Arts & culture	556.8	2.0
Clergy	286.8	
Paid employees	270.0	
International	727.2	2.7
Clergy	555.6	
Paid employees	171.6	
Environment	481.2	1.8
Clergy	382.8	
Paid employees	98.4	

Note: See note to table 4.14 and a) on table 4.25.

[a]With the exception of donations to other organizations and direct assistance to individuals, other paid program expenditures and volunteers include a prorated share of all current operating expenditures based on hours devoted to activities or use of volunteer time. A small portion of paid program expenditures for specific activities may include assigned values for volunteering by clergy.

CHAPTER 5
Implications of the Study

This national survey on the activities and finances of religious congregations was conducted to develop an initial picture of the activities and contributions of religious congregations. So little information is available about congregations, their relationship to their communities, or their influence on the civic and charitable behavior of their members, yet religious organizations have made major contributions, not only to other institutions in society, but on the major moral issues, such as civil rights, that have confronted society.

The findings of this study provide valuable information about the contributions of congregations to their members and their communities. Some of the findings of this study show:

Congregations not only engage in religious ministry and education but are deeply involved in serving their members and communities across a broad area of activities. The natural affinity between religious belief and improving the human condition is probably much stronger than most people think. Almost as many congregations offer programs in human services, 87 percent, as offer religious services and religious education. Nearly 42 percent of all the hours that clergy, other employees and volunteers spend in serving their congregations are devoted to other activities. Significant percentages of these total hours are directed to general education, human services, and health (30 percent). Congregation involvement in public and social benefit programs, arts and culture, international activities, and the environment absorb the remaining percentage of time (11 percent) devoted to activities other than religious ministry and education.

Congregations foster voluntary service. In an average month in 1986, it is estimated that a minimum of 10.4 million volunteers other than clergy were associated with congregational activities. In the course of a year, the number of different persons volunteering in congregations is considerably higher since not all volunteers work sometime during each month in the year. Volunteers engage in most of the activities of their congregations. Nearly half of the hours volunteers contribute to their congregations are devoted to activities sponsored by the congregations other than religious ministry and education. These findings suggest that many Americans and their families get their first introduction to voluntary service and responsibility to engage in community activities through participation in a religious congregation.

- Congregations develop the habit of giving not only for religious purposes, but for other activities that support the community. Of the $41.4 billion donated by individuals to congregations in 1986, $19.1 billion (46 percent) was allocated to activities other than religious programs or donated to other organizations. This excludes the value of in-kind donations, such as food, clothing, and shelter, that 6 out of 10 congregations reported giving to social services programs, as well as the value of volunteer time contributed by members of the congregations.

- Congregations provide facilities to foster community participation. Over 9 out of 10 congregations reported that their facilities were available for groups within their congregations, and 6 out of 10 reported that their facilities were available to other groups in the community.

- Congregations influence members to participate in their communities by translating belief into commitment. They are local institutions in which people of all ages meet together. They also are places that engage whole families. Of the 294,000 congregations, 60,000 had fewer than 100 members, 124,000 had from 100 to 399 members, and 103,000 had 400 members or more. The average size of membership of congregations suggest that they are small enough to accommodate the full participation of their members.

Implications for Further Study

This study clearly shows that there is a need for further study of religious institutions in the United States. When this survey is repeated, the methodology should be revised to include personal interviews with a substantial proportion of the sample in order to determine the kinds of services that congregations provide in various program areas. Such interviews ought to involve the major religious staff person, a lay leader, and the person in charge of finances. Through such interviews, it can be determined better which programs congregations operate directly, and which programs they participate in, either directly in their communities or indirectly through denominational programs. More detailed questions about the finances of congregations, including the allocations of funds, and the estimated value of providing their facilities to other groups in their community also may emerge from conversations with finance officers. Conversations with lay leaders may help us to better understand the connection between the volunteer work of members of congregations and support of organizations in the community.

- Another whole, but separate study needs to be conducted on denominational organizations and religious charities, such as Catholic charities, and relig-

iously supported institutions, such as hospitals or schools, to understand the full scope and contributions of religious organizations in the United States. Religious charities receive donations from a variety of sources, including individuals, federated fundraising organizations, foundations, corporations, and government. Much more needs to be known about the size, scope, and finances of this large segment of institutions in the independent sector.

- Surveys on individual giving and volunteering should include a series of questions that try to identify the institutions that encourage voluntary service of individuals. The most recent survey suggests that millions of individuals may find their initial interest in volunteering for a variety of organizations through their membership in congregations. Much more needs to be known about the influence of a whole array of institutions—including religious congregations, schools, and corporate and nonprofit institutions—and their effectiveness in promoting voluntary service and civic responsibility among citizens.

- Finally, more study is needed about congregations and their impact upon creating and maintaining a sense of community. These studies cannot be done through surveys, but rather through extensive case studies. For in a nation in which people are increasingly isolated and mobile, it is critical that we learn more about the kinds of institutions that nourish spiritual growth and renewal, that foster community participation, and that inspire individual generosity and voluntary service.

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